

ASALA threatens airlines

BEIRUT (R) — Armenian guerrillas Saturday threatened to attack airlines flying in and out of Turkey and Arab governments co-operating with Ankara. The Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) issued the warning in a communiqué in Armenian, Arabic and English delivered to an international news agency in Beirut. Separate communiqués delivered at the same time claimed responsibility for a series of attacks on Turkish diplomats in the Iranian capital, Tehran, late last month. "We warn all airlines with flights to or from Turkey, that they will be military targets for the attacks of our revolutionaries in Turkey and all parts of the world," the communiqué said. It also warned Arab governments which had security, military or economic links with the Turkish administration.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية "الرأي"

Kreisky urges Mideast conference

CAIRO (R) — Former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky Saturday called for an international conference to search for peace in the Middle East. Dr. Kreisky, who saw President Hosni Mubarak earlier this week, told a press conference closing his one-week visit to Egypt that the "best idea is to have an international conference like the Geneva Conference." He was referring to the inconclusive Middle East peace conference held in Geneva late in 1973 under United Nations auspices. He also said that the Soviet Union should be involved in any Middle East peace process. Dr. Kreisky, said he had "permanent relations" with both the Israeli Labour Party and the Palestinians, and predicted an Israeli Labour government would give "good chances for peace in the Middle East."

Kreisky blasts Likud coalition, page 2

Volume 9 Number 2536

AMMAN, SUNDAY APRIL 8, 1984, RAJAB 7, 1404

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Arafat leaves Sanaa

BAHRAIN (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat left the North Yemeni capital of Sanaa Saturday after a five-day visit, the Saudi Press Agency reported without giving his destination. In Sanaa, Mr. Arafat attended a conference of Palestinian writers and journalists and had talks with North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Mubarak, Kollingba hold discussions

CAIRO (R) — African and Middle East issues dominated a 90-minute session of talks here Saturday between Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak and visiting Central African Republic President Andre Kolingba. Egypt's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Boutros Ghali, told reporters afterwards that the discussions covered Lebanon and other regional and African issues, but would give no details.

Dutch anti-nuclear activists arrested

VOLKEL, Netherlands (AP) — About 120 anti-nuclear activists were arrested Saturday after they broke through the perimeter of the Volkel Royal Dutch Air Force base here and occupied a supply depot, the Defence Ministry announced. The demonstrators who were charged with breaking and entering were quoted by Dutch Television as saying their action was to protest the presence of nuclear weapons on the base.

Sri Lankan gunmen open fire in court

COLOMBO (AP) — Two gunmen opened fire at a group of prisoners at a magistrate's court in the Tamil-dominated northern province Friday, wounding four people and allowing four prisoners to escape, the government announced. Seriously wounded in the attack in Jaffna was a 33-year-old man identified as Yogarajah, who was in custody for allegedly committing five murders and 15 robberies.

Young industrialist kidnapped in Naples

NAPLES, Italy (AP) — Masked handis kidnapped a 24-year-old industrialist in an ambush near the Caserta-Salerno highway in southern Naples Friday night, police reported Saturday. Quoting witnesses, police said the abductors hopped a narrow street with their car and stopped a Maserati sports car driven by Francesco Perillo, a son of a wealthy Naples industrialist who owns a scrap metal company.

Helicopter crashes off Cape Canaveral

CAPE CANAVERAL (R) — A U.S. Air Force helicopter on surveillance patrol during test-launching of a missile by a new Trident submarine crashed into the sea early Saturday, an air force spokesman said. Three of the eight crewmen were rescued but the others were missing after their helicopter crashed about 85 kilometres from Cape Canaveral.

Militiamen reject Tel Aviv claim DFLP base hit

Israeli jets raid Bhamdoun

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Israeli jets attacked and badly damaged a building in central Lebanon Saturday, apparently in retaliation for last Monday's Palestinian commando attack in Jerusalem which wounded 50 people.

An Israeli military spokesman in Tel Aviv said the building was used by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) which claimed responsibility for the Jerusalem attack, but Lebanese militiamen who control the area rejected the Israeli report.

The militiamen of the pro-Syrian Lebanese faction, the Syrian Social Nationalist Party which controls Bhamdoun, said the building hit Saturday was not a DFLP facility and there were no Palestinians deployed in the area. They said there was an unspecified number of Palestinians "perhaps 10 or 12 miles from here."

'No casualties'

The pro-Syrian fighters said the

ground-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft guns were fired on the raiding jets from the hills overlooking Bhamdoun on the Beirut-Damascus highway. State-run Beirut Radio said the barrage "prevented enemy planes from hitting their targets."

But the "Voice of the Mountain" radio station of the Syrian-backed Progressive Socialist Party said the anti-aircraft fire was "aimed at preventing enemy planes from scoring direct hits." It did not say flatly whether direct hits were scored or not.

The Israeli military spokesman in Tel Aviv announced that all Israeli planes returned safely to base after the early morning strike on the Jewish Sabbath against what it said was a permanent base used by the DFLP.

The DFLP, headed by Nayef Hawatmeh, had claimed responsibility for the Jerusalem attack. The Israeli announcement claimed the base attacked in Bhamdoun was housed in the wing of a former hotel.

Bhamdoun is southeast of Beirut on the highway that links the Lebanese capital with Damascus. The DFLP announced in Damascus last Tuesday that it was bol-

ding an Israeli Druze soldier who has been missing from his unit in Lebanon for a year.

The DFLP said it would release the Israeli Druze, Samir Asaad, for the two DFLP men captured during last Monday's Jerusalem attack.

Israel reported the soldier's absence to the International Committee of Red Cross a year ago but there has been no word on his whereabouts until now. Israel has not commented on the DFLP offer.

Saturday's attack had been widely anticipated and the highly unusual move of bombing on the Jewish Sabbath apparently was an effort to surprise the commandos.

The air attack followed reports on Beirut Radio stations of Israeli and Syrian military buildups in the southern Bekaa Valley. Israeli military spokesman declined to comment on the report.

The Lebanese press reported Friday Israel and Syria were massing troops along the tense confrontation line in the Bekaa Valley, where Palestinian commandos opposed to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, operate behind Syrian lines.

Gemayel meets Assad Wednesday • Berri orders fighters off city streets

Beirut militias locked in battles

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Rival Lebanese militias renewed heavy artillery exchanges and bombardments of residential areas Saturday, said Lebanese President Amin Gemayel and Hafez Al Assad, the Syrian president, have agreed to meet in the Syrian capital next Wednesday.

The mainly Christian east Beirut came under renewed artillery bombardment by rival militias after a night of shelling in the Lebanese capital in which six people were reported killed and more than 30 injured.

Radio reports said at least three more people were wounded before midday in east Beirut by random salvos landing on commercial and industrial areas.

The planned Gemayel-Assad talks are expected to concentrate on ways to arrest escalating hostilities in Beirut, disengage combatants on Lebanon's civil war fronts and form a national reconciliation government in Lebanon to introduce political reforms.

As reports of the agreement on the Gemayel-Assad summit date reached Beirut, local radio stations said the Lebanese army and Syrian-backed Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) gunmen were locked in heavy artillery and rocket duels around the mountain town of Souq Al Gharb.

Police here also said rival militias traded barrages of rocket-propelled grenades and gunfire across the "green line" between east and mostly Muslim west Beirut at mid-afternoon.

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Lebanon's top Shi'ite Muslim opposition leader Nabih Berri declared, meanwhile, that he has ordered all militia fighters off the streets of west Beirut as of Sunday, turning over security of the western half of the Lebanese capital to the Lebanese army's Sixth Brigade and national police.

"Starting from Sunday, tomorrow morning, I don't want to see any armed men on the streets," Mr. Berri said.

The overnight artillery, mortar and rocket bombardments set several buildings ablaze.

The Foreign Ministry in east Beirut was damaged by a shell during the night, a ministry spokesman said.

It was the bloodiest night bombardment since leaders of Lebanon's warring factions held inconclusive peace talks in the Swiss city of Lausanne last month. It rivaled all-day bombardments on March 28 that killed 25 people and injured 150.

UNIFIL request

Lebanese newspapers quoted Foreign Ministry sources as saying that the government has asked the U.N. Security Council to renew the mandate of the United Nations Truce Supervision Force (UNTSF) in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for another six months.

The U.N. force, composed of nearly 6,000 soldiers from 10 nations, is deployed in South Lebanon. The Shi'ite Muslim opposition has sought an increase in the size of the force as part of an effort to end the Israeli occupation of the mostly Shi'ite south.

Militia leader calls for direct talks; Argentinean wages its own on "green line," page 2

Loyalist troops reportedly gain upper hand in Cameroun coup

ABIDJAN (Agencies) — The Cameroun capital, Yaounde, still appeared gripped by fighting Saturday after military rebels attempted a coup Friday, but informed French sources in Paris said troops loyal to President Paul Biya were regaining control of the city.

Yaounde Radio, which was off the air for much of Friday, was broadcasting erratically Saturday and a ministerial statement promised Friday night had still not materialised by Saturday afternoon, indicating there was still rebel resistance.

The Paris sources said loyalists had regained control of the national radio headquarters and partial control of the airport.

Action was now concentrated

around the presidential palace, which they said was surrounded by rebels in armoured vehicles putting up strong resistance to the counter-offensive.

Cameroun remained cut off from the outside world for the second day Saturday with its air ports closed and tele, telephone and radio links still down.

Western diplomats in Paris said the situation in the normally stable and prosperous West African country appeared confused and they had no information on President Biya's whereabouts.

Mr. Biya, diplomats in the Ivory Coast said, was understood to be away from the capital, which was the scene of sometimes heavy fighting Friday. There were no reports of any casualties.

Analysts said the disturbances probably were associated with the rivalry between President Biya and former President Ahmadou Ahidjo.

Mr. Ahidjo, a Muslim who stepped down unexpectedly in November 1982 after 22 years in power, was sentenced to death in his absence in February on charges of plotting against President Biya's government.

Mr. Biya later commuted the sentence to a prison term. The former president, who now lives in southern France, told Radio Monaco on Friday that "if my supporters are involved in a coup, they will gain the upper hand, I think." He declined to say whether he had anything to do with the rebellion.

Space shuttle chases crippled satellite

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — The gap between hunter and hunted narrowed in space Saturday as Challenger's astronauts closed to within 4,800 kilometres of a crippled satellite they hope to capture and repair on Sunday.

As the chase continued, the astronauts aboard checked out a wide range of experiments which they planned to launch into space later in the day, using the shuttle's crane. The box will stay in its own orbit until another shuttle crew brings it back to Earth next February.

The spacemen scheduled three gap-closing engine firings Saturday as Challenger pursued the

disabled sun-study satellite Solar Max.

When the five astronauts departed Cape Canaveral on Friday, Solar Max was half a world away, orbiting 18,500 kilometres ahead of the space shuttle. By Saturday morning, they had whittled that distance to less than 4,800 kilometres and were narrowing it at a rate of about 645 kilometres an hour. That pace was expected to slow as Challenger's altitude was raised later Saturday.

Once the astronauts catch the satellite early Sunday, they will execute precision manoeuvre to steer to within 61 metres of the target. They will adjust their speed to match that of Solar Max and the

two craft will fly in formation at 28,000 kilometres per hour.

At that point, the astronauts are to use a rocket-powered backpack to dock with the satellite so it can be brought into the cargo bay, where they will work on it during two six-hour space walks.

On Sunday they are to replace a control system which failed three years ago and prevented Solar Max from pointing its instruments precisely to study solar flares and other mysteries of the sun. They will be outside again Tuesday to replace a failed electronics box.

Re-usable satellite to begin 10-month stay in space, page 8

Hassan II, Chatti to warn U.S.

RIYADH (AP) — King Hassan II of Morocco and the secretary general of the 43-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) will be in Washington later this month to warn of the "dangers" of the calls for transfer of the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, it was reported here Saturday.

The newspaper Al Okaz, quoting Arab diplomatic sources in the U.S. capital, said King Hassan would be there mid-April "to warn the United States on behalf of the Arab and Muslim worlds" about the calls.

The Moroccan leader "will warn of the dangers of such a move on Arab and Islamic relations with Washington," the paper said.

It also quoted the Arab League representative in Washington, Clovis Maksoud, as saying King Hassan may be preceded by OIC Secretary-General Habib Chatti.

The issue of the embassy transfer has fuelled anti-American sentiments in the Gulf as elsewhere throughout the Arab and Islamic countries. U.S. President Ronald Reagan's affirmation that he would veto such a move if it went through Congress has not helped abate the furor.

Mr. Maksoud was quoted by Al Okaz as pointing out that backers of Israel in the Congress are trying to avert the Reagan veto by a compromise legality that would facilitate a future endeavour to transfer the embassy.



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday confers with a visiting delegation from the U.S. National Defence University (Petra photo)

Jordan will continue efforts for just solution, King says

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan would continue its efforts to achieve a just and durable Middle East peace settlement which would end the region's conflict and ensure the return of the Palestinian people to their homeland, His Majesty King Hussein said Saturday.

The King told a visiting delegation from the U.S. National Defence University.

Referring to his recent statements to the U.S. media criticising the American policy in the Middle East, the King said the criticism was not aimed at President Ronald Reagan or his administration but only a description of the state of affairs of the U.S. policy since 1967.

American policies over the years since 1967 have opened the door for Israel to change the situation in the occupied Arab lands, and helped the Jewish state to achieve a gradual annexation of Arab lands, the King said.

He said Israel's claim that the exchange of the occupied Arab land for peace is a pre-condition is

nothing but an attempt to mislead world opinion, and an open attempt to obstruct peace efforts. This proves that Israel and not the Arabs, is rejecting the establishment of a just and durable peace in the region, the King said.

Israel's settlements in the occupied Arab lands translate the American support and assistance for the Jewish state, the King said. The settlements represent a revival of colonialistic policies which had been downcast by the world at large in the wake of World War II, he pointed out.

The King also asked how the U.S. can reconcile between its declared principles and its role as an ally to Israel's neo-colonialism.

Jordan, as part of the Arab Nation, rejects any polarisation in the Middle East in line with the Kingdom's keenness on preserving its independence and Arab identity.

Yet, Jordan believes that a participation by the Soviet Union in the peace making process is bound to contribute positively towards the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace, the King said.

The Soviet Union, he added, being a superpower has interests in the region and at the same time

recognises Security Council Resolution 242 as a basis for peace. The King expressed hope that the American people will remain committed to their principles and ideals and work towards the establishment of balanced peace that would ensure the rights of all parties in the region.

The King's meeting with the U.S. delegation was attended by Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Richard Vets.

Earlier, the U.S. delegation met with Army Chief-of-Staff Lieutenant-General Fahd Abu Taleb who spoke about Jordan's defence policy and reviewed the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

The meeting, at the army headquarters, was attended by senior army officers and the U.S. military attaché in Amman.

The U.S. delegation, grouping teachers and students, arrived in Amman Friday on an official visit to Jordan.

Apart from their meetings with senior Jordanian officials the delegation members will also tour military institutions and archaeological sites in the country.

Sharaf briefs U.S.-Arab delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Laila Sharaf Saturday urged a delegation from the Council of U.S.-Arab relations to have a direct and objective examination of the Middle East issue rather than depending on Western media for information.

The delegation, which arrived here Saturday in the course of a visit to Jordan and Saudi Arabia, was briefed by Mrs. Sharaf at a

meeting in the Ministry of Information about Israel's arbitrary measures in the occupied Arab territories. She spoke about Israel's drive to evict the Arab population from their homeland and to build settlements on Arab territory.

The minister also spoke about developments and progress in the Jordanian society and development plans carried out in the

country. Later she answered questions put to her by the delegation members which centred mostly on the U.S. policy in the Middle East and peace initiatives for the region.

Mrs. Sharaf pointed out that Israel's intransigence and its settlement policies have been responsible for the absence of a just and durable peace.

Palestinian women detainees' strike ends successfully in Israeli prison

By Laila K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — A 10-month-old strike by Palestinian women jailed by the Israeli occupation authorities in Al Ramleh prison ended successfully last week when the prison administration conceded to the detainees' demands for better conditions, a former inmate of the prison said here Saturday.

Miss Therese Halaseh, who was released in a prisoner exchange between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel last November, told the Jordan Times that after 10 months of strike by the detainees, which started by refusal to work in the prison and later turned into a hunger-strike over the last weeks, the Israeli prison administration conceded to a number of demands submitted by the 23 women in the Ramleh prison.

"The concessions by the Israeli administration is a triumph which reflects the persistence and determination of our sister freedom fighters in the Ramleh prison," Miss Halaseh said.

The struggle waged by the Ramleh political prisoners was supported by many Arab, Jewish and international women and labour organisations. "The progressive Jewish women did not spare any effort to protest against the inhuman conditions in the prison," Miss Halaseh said.

She cited the "Jewish Women Anti-War Movement" and "The Jewish Progressive Women" as examples of Jewish organisations that rendered moral and practical

support for the Ramleh detainees. The cause of the Ramleh prisoners was also supported by a committee of Arab and Jewish lawyers including the well-known Israeli lawyers, Mrs. Felicia Langer and Le'a Tsemel, and Arab lawyers like Mr. Walid Fahoum and Mr. Abed Assali.

"The Committee of Arab Lawyers for the Defence of Ramleh prisoners," filed a suit against the prison administration and launched a campaign to publicise the deplorable conditions in the prison and to rally public opinion against the prison's administration.

The lawyers also charged the Israeli authorities with violating the Geneva Convention concerning the treatment of political prisoners.

Last week, however, the Israeli authorities succumbed to domestic and international pressure and conceded to some of the prisoners' demands, according to Miss Halaseh.

One of the major demands that the prison administration agreed to was to hold a dialogue with the detainees to discuss their complaints.

Among the other demands that the Israeli administration accepted were to stop forcing prisoners to clean and cook for the prison wardens and to return confiscated books and clothes. "These demands are only part of the demands originally asked for by the prisoners but it was still a good achievement," Miss Halaseh

said. Yet, she pointed out, the struggle of the Ramleh prisoners will continue until the prison administration puts an end to the severe punishment and torture practised against the prisoners. She accused the prison administration of spraying poisonous gas at women prisoners inflicting nausea and causing blisters on their skin.

Main demands

Miss Halaseh summed up the rest of the demands as follows: — An end to all inhuman measures practised against prisoners including the spraying of poisonous gas; — No more solitary confinements; — Permission for volunteer Arab doctors to treat serious cases of illness and to check up on the health conditions of all the prisoners; — Treatment of the prisoners as prisoners of war and not as criminals.

Miss Halaseh said that a report prepared by a special committee that has been formed by the Israeli Knesset (parliament) to investigate the Ramleh prison conditions has not been released by the Israeli government "which proves the cruelty and ruthlessness of the prison's administration and the inhuman conditions of the Ramleh prison."

A detailed interview with Miss Halaseh on her prison experience will appear in the Jordan Times next week.

INSIDE

- Fresh U.S. contingent arrives off Beirut, page 2
- Government declares new holiday to mark Great Arab Revolt, page 3
- Path to the White House is paved with gold, page 4
- Make sure your kids do not get telephone codes, by Inad Khairallah, page 5
- Liverpool leaves joggers behind, page 6
- U.S. Federal Reserve raises discount rate, page 7
- Democrats attack Reagan's speech, page 8

Fresh contingent of U.S. Marines arrives off Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — A fresh contingent of 1,800 U.S. Marines arrived off Beirut Saturday to relieve a Marine force cruising off Lebanon since pulling out of here in February, the U.S. Military Command in Lebanon announced.

The command, based at the Lebanese Defence Ministry, said the changeover was "part of the normal pattern of deployment of Navy and Marines amphibious forces in the Mediterranean."

It said the 24th Marine Amphibious Unit (MAU) arrived on three warships to replace the 22nd MAU which reached Beirut last November and held strongpoints around Beirut Airport until February.

The 22nd MAU is on board five warships in the Mediterranean, usually out of sight of the Lebanese coast.

White House officials said last Friday President Reagan had decided the Marines who served in Lebanon would shortly be returned to normal duty with the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean.

A U.S. military spokesman in Beirut said the 22nd MAU would return to the United States after a handover period of four to five days.

Part of the new force would maintain a presence off Lebanon to support U.S. servicemen on shore, while the rest of its ships and men "will be free to participate in Sixth Fleet exercises or

anything else," he added.

The United States has steadily reduced its naval force off Lebanon since the Marines pulled out following defeats inflicted on President Amin Gemayel's U.S.-trained and Equipped army by opposition militias and the collapse of American policies in Lebanon.

There are now believed to be about 15 U.S. warships in the eastern Mediterranean compared with a maximum force of 25, including the battleship New Jersey, off Lebanon before the Marines left Beirut.

The United States still has 200 to 300 servicemen in Lebanon, including about 100 Marines guarding the embassy, 60 trainers for the Lebanese army, a headquarters staff and support personnel.

Kreisky says Likud coalition 'real catastrophe'

CAIRO (AP) — Former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky on Saturday called Israel's ruling Likud coalition a "real catastrophe" and said that if the Labour Party comes to power after election next July, it would provide "new chances" for peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Kreisky, here on a one week private visit, told a press conference that Europe should play a more active role in peace efforts in the Middle East. He suggested that the European Parliament form a good offices committee to discuss ways of marrying President Reagan's 1982 peace plan and the Arab Fes plan.

The former chancellor, a leading member of the Socialist International, an organisation that groups non-Communist Socialist parties, criticised the United States for introducing a peace plan which lacked any "follow up" and any "many new aspects."

"Their (Likud's) policy is a dangerous one," said Mr. Kreisky when asked about the future of the Middle East peace prospects if the Likud retained control in Israel. "A real catastrophe in my view."

"There will be new chances for peace in the Middle East if the Labour Party comes to power," Mr. Kreisky said. "Based on my experience with the Labour Party, there is a good chance that the Labour Party in power will be good for the peace process in the Middle East."

As chancellor and after his retirement, Mr. Kreisky has been critical of Israel's policy toward Arab countries. His apparent support for the Labour party is because they have said they are willing to make "territorial concessions" on Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in return for a peaceful settlement.

The Israeli elections are scheduled for July 23. "I hope Labour wins," Mr. Kreisky said. "During his visit, Mr. Kreisky met with President Hosni Mubarak and other Egyptian officials."

U.S. plans to build aircraft shelters in Oman

WASHINGTON (R) — The Pentagon plans to build reinforced aircraft shelters and barracks in Oman as part of its expansion of military ground support in the Middle East in case U.S. Rapid Deployment Forces must be sent there.

The U.S. project also includes work in Morocco and the British island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

Assistant Secretary of Defence Richard Armitage told Congress this week such outposts were needed if U.S. troops were to carry out President Reagan's pledge not to allow the Gulf to be closed to shipping.

"A Soviet invasion or other direct military threat to our vital interests could involve the use of U.S. forces along with the forces of our friends and allies," he said.

About a sixth of the non-Communist world's oil supplies

passes through the Strait of Hormuz at the entrance to the Gulf.

Iran, which has been fighting a war against Iraq for three and a half years, has threatened to close the strait if its foe disrupts its oil shipments.

The Rapid Deployment Force, now called the Central Command, was formed by President Jimmy Carter in 1980 to help protect the oil-producing Gulf states if they are threatened by the Soviet Union.

The United States is seeking \$104 million for military construction in Oman, \$22.9 million for Diego Garcia and \$5 million for Morocco.

Mr. Armitage also said an additional \$496 million was sought for military construction to support U.S. facilities in the Philippines, Japan, South Korea, Guam and Johnston Island, south of Hawaii.

This includes \$583 million for the Philippines, \$217 million for South Korea and \$81 million for Japan.

Mr. Armitage told a House appropriations subcommittee on military construction that the facilities in the Middle East would help the United States rush troops there when required and to sustain them in combat, if necessary.

In addition to the aircraft shelters and barracks, money for Oman would go for maintenance and support at four air bases.

Mr. Armitage said aircraft repair shop and munitions storage facilities were already completed in Oman.

Mr. Reagan's plan to build a staging facility for U.S. Army troops in Oman may be cut back as part of the president's effort to reduce the overall budget deficit, he said.

The funds for Diego Garcia would go for munitions storage and maintenance installations.

The British island is used to support the U.S. Navy's aircraft carrier battle group stationed in the Indian Ocean and ships positioned in nearby waters which carry supplies for any troops rushed to the region.

Mr. Armitage said the funds for Morocco would be for improving airfield and fuel storage for planes ferrying troops and supplies from the continental United States to the Gulf area.

He said the Soviet Union was attempting to exploit region, as was being demonstrated by the Soviet presence in Syria, South Yemen, the Horn of Africa and Afghanistan, as well as Libya.

"Their pressure threatens the independence and territorial integrity of states of the region," he said.

Militia leader renews call for direct talks

BEIRUT (R) — The commander of Lebanon's main Falangist militia, Fady Frem, was quoted Saturday as renewing his call for direct talks with Druze and Shi'ite Muslim militias on the country's future.

"We should sit together among ourselves, especially the new generation, and discuss what future Lebanon we want," Com. Frem told the English-language newspaper Daily Star.

"We are ready to start negotiations immediately without any preconditions," he added. He named his own Lebanese Forces, the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), and the Shi'ite Muslim movement Amal as the main groups which should be involved.

PSP leader Walid Junblatt proposed direct talks between the militias last month after a conference grouping mostly elderly politicians failed to agree on a plan of political reforms to bring peace to Lebanon.

The Lebanese Forces immediately responded with its own appeal for direct negotiations.

Com. Frem said in Saturday's interview that so far the only contacts with the Muslim groups had

been through intermediaries. "Till now, nothing concrete came out of it," he said.

PSP and Falangists have in fact reached a peace accord in the Kharrour region south of Beirut. But it was worked out under the supervision of Israeli occupying South Lebanon and neither the Lebanese Forces nor the PSP had been eager to say it was officially involved.

Com. Frem said the agreement was made between "Druze citizens" and "Christian citizens". But he said some of these were also members of his militia and the main Druze representative was Tawfiq Barakat, a prominent PSP official.

Com. Frem made it clear the Falangists stuck by their proposal to divide Lebanon into cantons run by the different religious communities, abandoning the system of centralised government which has operated since independence from France in 1943.

Both the Falangists and the PSP have already established what amount to semi-autonomous cantons and Com. Frem said he thought the PSP would go along with the Christian scheme.

But he predicted problems with the Shi'ites, who have no canton in the making. The Shi'ite population is divided between Beirut's densely-populated southern slums, Israeli-occupied South Lebanon and Syrian-occupied eastern Lebanon.

Com. Frem said it was unrealistic to wait until Israeli and Syrian forces had withdrawn before the Lebanese negotiated among themselves.

"Let us negotiate to find an agreement on small areas where there are no Syrians or Israelis and reach some kind of agreement," he said.

Com. Frem said Israel would not even reduce the number of its troops in South Lebanon unless its "security needs", chiefly defence against Palestinian commando attacks on northern Israel, were ensured.

But he said the Lebanese government clearly did not have the capacity to do this and therefore he supported Israel's plans, in which the Lebanese Forces are involved, to form a joint militia from the different communities to police the area.

The former chancellor, a leading member of the Socialist International, an organisation that groups non-Communist Socialist parties, criticised the United States for introducing a peace plan which lacked any "follow up" and any "many new aspects."

"Their (Likud's) policy is a dangerous one," said Mr. Kreisky when asked about the future of the Middle East peace prospects if the Likud retained control in Israel. "A real catastrophe in my view."

"There will be new chances for peace in the Middle East if the Labour Party comes to power," Mr. Kreisky said. "Based on my experience with the Labour Party, there is a good chance that the Labour Party in power will be good for the peace process in the Middle East."

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The Israeli elections are scheduled for July 23. "I hope Labour wins," Mr. Kreisky said. "During his visit, Mr. Kreisky met with President Hosni Mubarak and other Egyptian officials."

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's Defence Minister, Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, left for Washington Saturday with a large delegation for talks on military co-operation and the Middle East.

Sheikh Salem, whose country is the closest Arab Gulf state to the frontlines of the 42-month-old Iran-Iraq war, will meet Vice President George Bush, Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger and Secretary of State George Shultz during a one-week visit.

He told reporters before departing that he would discuss the Palestinian problem and latest

Gulf war developments as well as military co-operation.

Sheikh Salem said the accompanying military delegation would inspect "latest American achievements in the arms field." He gave no details.

Diplomatic sources said the 29-member delegation would be most interested in advanced anti-aircraft missiles, warplanes and naval ships and equipment.

The sources ruled out the possibility of Kuwait signing any arms deals during the visit. They said such agreements were normally signed in Kuwait.

Kuwaiti defence minister leaves for U.S.

Senior U.S. diplomats in Kuwait told Reuters that Sheikh Salem's trip to Washington, which precedes a visit to Moscow scheduled for later this year, was designed to promote bilateral ties, especially in the military field.

Sheikh Salem is making the first visit to Washington by a senior Kuwaiti official since a bomb attack on the U.S. embassy in Kuwait last December.

It also comes at a time when Kuwait is embarking on a large security operation to safeguard its borders.

Prince Saud confers with Yaqub Khan

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Prince Saud Al Faisal, the Saudi Arabian foreign minister, held "wide-ranging" talks with his Pakistani counterpart, Sahibzada Yaqub Khan, here Saturday but officials would not disclose specifics. The talks, covered "the international and regional situation, as well as bilateral relations," Foreign Ministry sources said.

Prince Saud flew to Islamabad on Friday and met with President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq immediately after his arrival. Officials declined to disclose what topics were discussed.

U.S. agrees to lease missiles to S. Arabia

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has agreed to lease shoulder-fired anti-aircraft Stinger missiles to Saudi Arabia, reportedly to protect a yacht being built for King Fahd, administration sources said Saturday.

State Department spokesmen said a small number of the missiles were being leased "for special protective services" to Saudi Arabia for less than six months, but refused to elaborate.

Other administration sources said, however, they could not deny a New York Times story that four of the missiles would be leased to protect a yacht being built in Britain for King Fahd.

The administration cancelled plans to sell Saudi Arabia 1,400 Stinger missiles because of heavy opposition in Congress on the grounds that they could be used against Israel or might be captured and used by commandos.

Argentina waging its own battle against Lebanese Army on Green Line

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Argentina, trapped in the Lebanese conflict, is waging its own battle against the occupation of the Argentine embassy by Lebanese Army troops.

The incident may seem trivial compared with Lebanon's problems, but Argentine diplomats see it as "a serious offense." They are further angered because they claim the Lebanese Foreign Ministry has ignored every protest lodged since the Feb. 17 military occupation.

"I think the whole episode has been undramatised, but I give it all the connotations of a very grave act," said Eduardo Gonzalez Plaza, the Argentine charge d'affaires in Lebanon. "We have not received a single official explanation."

We were simply told by the military that the embassy was a military zone."

The Argentine compound indeed has great strategic value. Its 1,700 square metres, including the two-storey stone building, are clustered in the middle of the Green Line crossing at the closed Lebanese Museum, the only open corridor between Beirut's east and west.

After opposition militiamen won control of west Beirut, army troops loyal to President Amin Gemayel's government launched a drive to capture positions along the corridor, and the Argentine embassy became involved. Now it provides the most advanced post of the army facing the city's western half.

The embassy, surrounded by bougainvillea and trees, has been overrun before during the nearly nine-year Lebanese civil war.

Palestinian fighters reportedly used the embassy's backyard to launch attacks against invading Israeli troops in 1982. Later other militiamen opened holes in the compound's walls to provide quick escape after hit-and-run raids.

Today, the embassy's facade bears the scars of years of fighting. In the lobby, an engraving depicting Jose de San Martin, the father of the 1816 independence of Argentina from Spain, hangs from a wall shattered by a stray bullet.

"When the Israelis bombed us in 1982, at least they gave a reason — their usual one — that we were

housing terrorists," Mr. Gonzalez said.

"But the Lebanese government has not given us any official explanation, they have simply ignored my protests," he said, producing a copy of a note sent to the Lebanese Foreign Ministry and dated Feb. 23.

Reporters' efforts to get official comment from the Lebanese Foreign Ministry produced no results. A source at the ministry said no one there was familiar with the problem, but Mr. Gonzalez said he sent his protest by telex and had proof it was received.

"To say that they have not received this or that document is common practice in the Lebanese Foreign Ministry," he complained.

The occupation occurred two days after Ambassador Tulio Sugasi left Beirut on home leave, and the Argentine government has not been able to summon the Lebanese ambassador in Buenos Aires because he has resigned, Mr. Gonzalez said.

He said 50 soldiers stormed into the compound, but the number was later reduced to 27. They sleep in the embassy's basement and have set up a sandbagged observation post in one corner of the compound. They also closely monitor embassy guests, Mr. Gonzalez said.

Mr. Gonzalez acknowledged, however, that given the current situation in Lebanon, the embassy occupation carries little weight when it comes to listing Arg-

entina's main diplomatic issues. Buenos Aires is trying to solve its tense 1978 territorial dispute with Chile in the Beagle Channel and is still licking its wounds from defeat in the British-Argentine war over the Falkland Islands.

Mr. Gonzalez, the 34-year-old second secretary who is the top-ranking diplomat still present in the three-member mission, said the Lebanese government "would never have allowed the military occupation of the French embassy, for example."

He said that despite the occupation and Lebanon's abstention in a United Nations vote supporting Argentina's claims over the Falklands, or Malvinas, it was highly unlikely that Buenos Aires would sever relations with Beirut.

Lebanese youths receive medical help in U.S.

CHICAGO, Illinois (AP) — Two youngsters injured in war-torn Lebanon have arrived in the United States for medical treatment.

One of the boys, Ahmad Ali Kassem, 10, lost his left leg, a hand, two fingers, and received other injuries when he stepped on a cluster bomb two years ago. Officials of Save Lebanon, a branch of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, said the boy would have plastic surgery and possibly be fitted with artificial limbs when he is treated at Shriners Hospital.

Ashraf Mawla, 7, is to be treated in Chesterfield, Missouri, for an eye injury. He was injured in a Beirut slum when shrapnel from a

shell left him blind in his right eye. Ahmad is from Inah, and Ashraf is from Roueiss, Lebanon.

The two boys, accompanied by Ashraf's father, arrived at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport on Friday.

Two other victims of the Lebanese fighting — a 20-year-old man, Fadi Jaher, and a 13-year-old girl, Myriam Wafra — were preparing to return home Saturday, after undergoing treatment in the U.S. Jaher, who lost his right leg below the knee, was fitted with an artificial leg and underwent therapy. Wafra underwent plastic surgery and treatment for oil burns she suffered in 1982.

TV & RADIO

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UNRWA celebrates health day

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Amman Training Centre (ATC) of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Saturday celebrated the World Health Day here at the centre's theatre.

Speaking at the ATC, Director of UNRWA in Jordan Per Olof Hallqvist said that within the frame of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) motto "Health for All by the Year 2000", the agency has embarked on a major health education programme, intended to increase the general health conditions among refugee children.

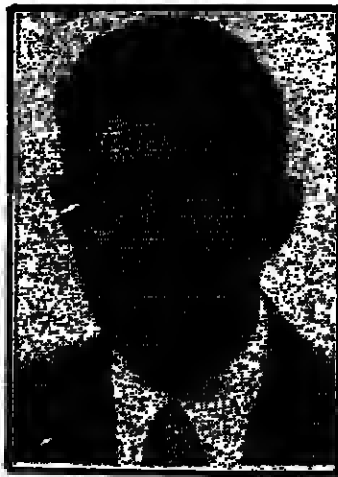
"We have assembled here all the head teachers from our 213 UNRWA schools in Jordan, who represent about 135,000 students in the elementary and preparatory stages, to a seminar in which child health and health education will be discussed", Mr. Hallqvist said.

Mr. Hallqvist gave a brief account of the relations between UNRWA and WHO as well as between the agency and the Jordanian government.

Talking about UNRWA's activities, he pointed out that the situation is not entirely satisfactory.

"The agency is aware of this and its Commissioner General personally pays great attention to this problem", he added.

Mr. Hallqvist went on to say that health cannot be achieved without individual effort and a great deal of co-operation. "A mother-to-be should co-operate with the



Per Olof Hallqvist

mother-child health clinics in order to facilitate the birth of her child and to give the newborn baby the best possible preventive care," he said.

Giving examples, Mr. Hallqvist said that medical staff in health centres co-operate with welfare workers and with the schools in order to detect as early as possible any health hazards in homes and among school children.

He added that health education workers also co-operate with voluntary agencies in their different types of activities as they can meet and to inform a large number of mothers and children.

Mr. Hallqvist maintained that it is in the spirit of co-operation that the agency embarked on the health education programme.

Also, director of health at the UNRWA headquarters in Vienna,

Dr. John Hiddlestone, delivered a speech at the ceremony in which he said that WHO is one of the most effective organs of the United Nations.

"It is not only a source of information for its member states but also it acts as a recurring spur to the thinking and the conscience of the whole world", he said.

He added that on the matter of children's health, school teachers are particularly important because most children respect their teachers on a par with their parents. Teachers, he pointed out, are the source of important knowledge and that this knowledge must be extended to include health education as a natural part of their education.

Mr. Hiddlestone said that like all concerned health authorities, UNRWA believes that children should be conceived in love, delivered in safety and protected totally from preventable disease.

He stressed that children's health can only be assured by the co-ordinated effort of parents, community and expert services. "Health has been accurately called the spring board for economic success", Mr. Hiddlestone added.

Also delivering speeches on the occasion were Mr. Atiyeh Mahmoud the Field Education Officer in Jordan and the acting director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

A panel discussion was held later during which participants discussed the issue of school health and the role of the school health teachers in the school health programme.



The board of the Jordanian Medical Association, chaired by its president Hassan Khreis (third from left) Friday presides over its annual general meeting (Photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)

Medical association voices concern over growing rate of unemployment

AMMAN (J.T.) — Unemployment among Jordanian physicians, their salaries, and the possibility of amending the Medical Council Law as well as the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA) law were the focal points of discussion at the JMA annual general meeting held Friday at the Professional Association Complex.

The meeting, which was presided over by JMA President Hassan Khreis, approved the association's financial and administrative reports of last year.

During the meeting, the general assembly also approved the association's draft budget for the current year as well as the pension budget of last year and its draft budget for this year.

Regarding unemployment, which is starting to prevail among Jordanian physicians, the doctors called for a broadening of the base of medical services and for them to be spread into the rural areas to

absorb as many as doctors possible.

During the meeting, which lasted for seven hours, the doctors also called for improvements to be made in remote medical clinics and centres.

According to a report presented to the JMA meeting, there are at least 9,000 Jordanians studying medicine in Arab and foreign universities and their prospect of finding jobs when they graduate is slim.

The report also said that Jordanian doctors who have been employed abroad are returning home and in the coming six years Jordan expects to have an extra 10,000 doctors looking for work. Hence the present rate of unemployment among doctors is expected to rise.

The meeting also called for the revision of physicians' working hours so that they do not have to have their residence, due to pressure of work, in the area of their

clinic in accordance with the civil service regulation and labour law.

The members of the JMA general assembly called for equality for private sector physicians with those of the public sector regarding salaries, calls, working hours and social and medical security.

The general assembly also stressed the importance of adopting the demands of workers in the private hospitals by the medical council.

Regarding the medical council law, the physicians attending the meeting called for an amendment to a number of laws to bring them up to date and so that examinations for specialised doctors who have obtained specialisation certificates would not be required.

In this regard, they asked that licenses be awarded straightaway on the production of these certificates.

Women's federation to hold charity fund-raising event on April 19

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Women's Federation (JWF) will hold a charity festival at Al Hussein Youth City on April 19 under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

Taking part in the three-day festival will be various charitable and voluntary societies, a number of ministries and national institutions, the Amman Chamber of Industry and the Amman Municipality.

JWF President Haifa Al Bashir said that the proceeds of the festival will be used to benefit charitable societies all over the country.

Participating societies at the festival will sell children's clothing, national costumes, artificial flowers, ceramic works, paintings, rugs, children's toys, knitwear, bamboo and mother-of-pearl products in addition to foods, delicacies and sweets, she said.

Altogether 65 societies from Amman, Irbid, Kerak, Balqa, and Ma'an will be represented and a number of Arab and foreign embassies will participate by offering samples of their national food, she said.

Also, there will be a variety show produced by Jordanian artists and an exhibition of books on children and women, in addition to special children's playing corner, Mrs. Bashir said.

She added that the armed forces band together with scout and folk troupes from different schools, will put on their own performances.

According to Mrs. Bashir, Al Wihdat, and Al Ramtha soccer clubs have agreed to stage a game.

the proceeds of which will be presented to the JWF as a contribution to the charitable societies, and a number of organisations in Jordan have made material and financial contributions.

The wife of the Pakistani ambassador to Jordan Saturday called on Mrs. Bashir and promised that the embassy will participate in the function and said that the embassy will provide food and a display of Pakistani art and products.

Arab Universities Union to move HQ from Riyadh

AMMAN (Petra) — The Union of Arab Universities (UAU) board of directors has decided to transfer the UAU headquarters from Riyadh to another Arab capital, Yamouk University President Adnan Badran announced here Friday evening.

Dr. Badran, who attended the board's three-day meeting in Algiers, said that the UAU board will meet in Amman before the end of

August to choose a new headquarters and to elect a new UAU secretary-general.

The board discussed at its meeting scientific seminars which the UAU will organise during the course of this year, approved the publication of a comprehensive UAU atlas of the Arab World and endorsed the general budget for 1984, Dr. Badran said.

Britain doubles donation to U.N. fund

AMMAN (J.T.) — The British government has contributed an additional £500,000 to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) \$13 million Lebanon reconstruction fund in addition to the £500,000 it earlier con-

tributed, according to an UNRWA press release here.

In a letter to UNRWA Commissioner-General Olof Rydbeck confirming the contribution, Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said: "We recognise the

great value of UNRWA's work in Lebanon and elsewhere in the Middle East and we hope the international community will respond generously to your appeal." Including the United Kingdom's additional contribution, \$6.2 million has been donated by six countries to the fund which is being used for the reconstruction of UNRWA installations in Lebanon, the reconstruction of refugee camp infrastructure and for refugee housing.

UNRWA provides education, health and relief services to those eligible among almost two million registered Palestine refugees in Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

There are over 240,000 registered Palestine refugees in Lebanon.

Chamber conference slated

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab chambers of industry, commerce and agriculture will hold their 28th conference in Amman on April 16.

Subjects to be discussed during this conference include a review of Arab economic co-operation, future prospects for industry in the Arab World, an evaluation of the role of Arab financial institutions,

the position of Arab businessmen in the Arab Labour Organisation and the future of small farmers in rural and agricultural development in the Arab World.

The conference will also be attended by delegations representing international commercial institutions and chambers of commerce from Europe and the United States as observers.

Abstraction, surrealism compete in work of Janine Saaf

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two different inclinations prevail in the work of Dutch artist Janine Saaf currently on show here at the Alia Art Gallery. One is a tendency towards abstraction and another towards surrealism.

The florals of Mrs. Saaf, which

are painted in water colours, manifest clearly not only her love for flowers but also her tendency to simplify and abstract shapes giving them a different perspective which is consistent with a total command of the medium.

The feeling the viewer receives when looking at one of the floral paintings is the same as when looking at a flower which has been

kept for a while inside a book to dry. The secret here is in the artist's approach and painting technique.

Mrs. Saaf is also a flower collector, she collects all kinds of flowers wherever she finds them, and before starting one of her paintings, she picks up one of the flowers in her collection, the one that appeals to her most at that particular moment and looks at it.

The impression the artists gets when she looks at the flower, par-

ART REVIEW

ty determines how the painting is going to look. She wets both sides of the painting paper in order to keep it straight and then she starts painting with water colours using Chinese ink and crayons.

"Each brush stroke I make, inspires me to take the next step", Mrs. Saaf told the Jordan Times. "Whether filling up the background first or starting the flower, it is just a matter of what I feel at the moment", she said.

"Sometimes I paint three or four flowers on top of each other before I feel the painting is finished, however, the painting has to be finished in one session because I cannot wet the paper twice," Mrs. Saaf explained.

The 30 water colours on display show the distinctive style of an artist who has been painting for the last 20 years. To be able to understand the floral paintings, one should realise that Mrs. Saaf began her artistic career as a textile designer and that she used to make designs to be printed on textiles.

When one looks at the semi-abstract water colours in Mrs. Saaf's exhibition, one cannot help but notice the intentionally sys-

tematic balance with which the artist executes her paintings. There is an endless movement all over the painting.

The oils painted on canvas are a completely different subject. Here the artist paints Jordanian antiquities and landscapes, such as the treasury of Petra, the ruins of Jerash, Karak, Ajloun, Um Quais, Iraq Al Amir and the Palace of Amra in the Jordanian desert.

However, the artist does not paint from life, she depends largely on a combination of photographs, sketches and memory. The outcome is strange one has to say.

There is a rather confusing mixture of realism, impressionism and surrealism in the oil colours that makes one wonder why the artist paints oil colours different in style from the water colours and tempera paintings. However, even in oils, you can feel there are flowers even though you cannot see them.

The viewer can easily notice that the artist is struggling with herself when looking at the oil colours; the strong surrealistic trend and realism are constantly battling with another urge, towards impressionism. But somehow none of these inclinations seem to prevail.

Mrs. Saaf is clearly more con-

sistent in her water colours than in her oils as she started painting in oils only five years ago.

The purple and mauish colours dominate almost all of the paintings on show. "I see the purple colour in shadows and in corners... everywhere", the artist said. Her fascination with antiquities emanates from her love of history: "There is hidden history in the stones and landscapes of Jordan, and I see a strange light in the sky", she added.

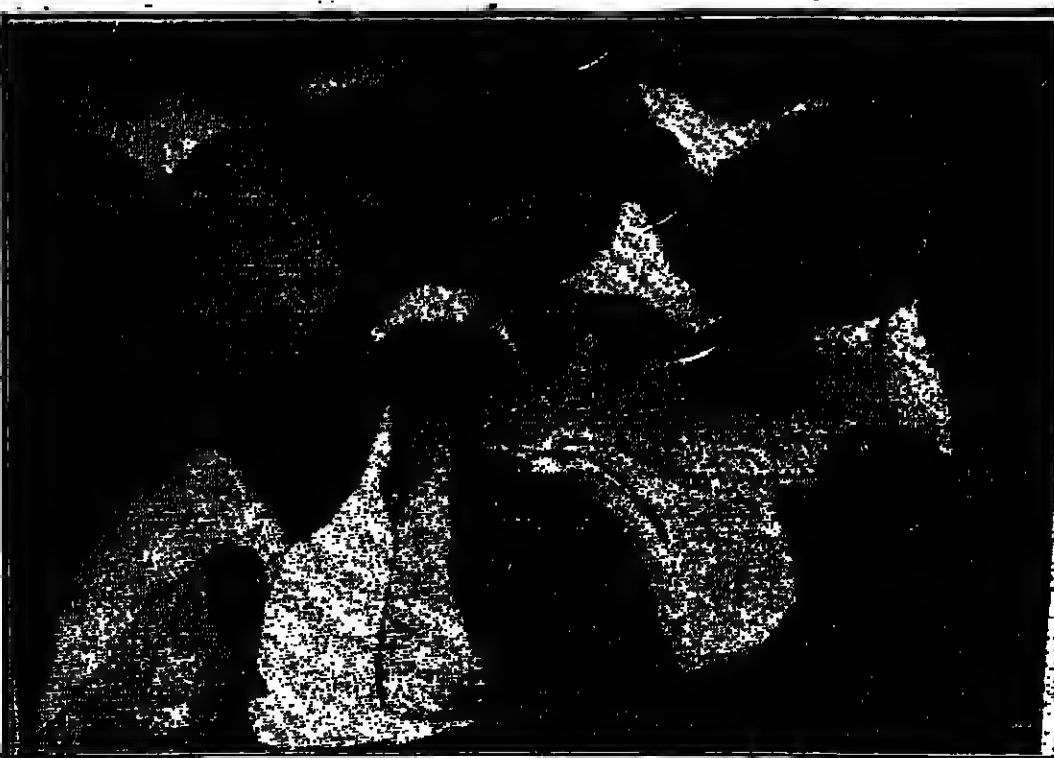
"When I was in Petra, I had the feeling I saw people coming out from the old ages proceeding to present their offerings to the monastery... I even saw the way they were dressed", the artist said.



A scene from a Jordanian village, which can be viewed in the exhibition of Janine Saaf's work here (J.T. file photo)



Mrs. Janine Saaf



One of the water colour floral paintings on wet paper by the Dutch artist Janine Saaf which is currently on show at the Alia Art Gallery (J.T. file photo)

June 10 named 'Great Arab Revolt Day'

Government creates new national holiday

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is to have a new national holiday on June 10 when the country will celebrate "The Great Arab Revolt and Army Day."

In the past these two occasions were combined with Independence Day and were marked on May 25, however according to an announcement from the Prime Ministry these two are now to be celebrated separately.

The announcement said that as June 10, 1916 was the date of the outbreak of the Great Arab Revolt, Jordan will from now on observe June 10 as Great Arab Revolt Day.

For the nation, the date represents a source of inspiration to enhance the people's determination to achieve the objectives of the Great Arab Revolt which aimed to establish Arab

unity and preserve Arab dignity, the announcement said.

The Jordanian army has inherited the task of implementing the principles of the Great Arab Revolt, it has raised its standards and preserved the essence of the revolt in Jordan ever since the establishment of this country by one of the revolt's leaders, the announcement continued.

Therefore, it added, Jordan from now on will observe the date of June 10 as a National Day when all government departments and public institutions will be closed and ceremonies and celebrations will be held in commemoration of the anniversary.

Saudi company to buy Rashadiya-made cement

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Saudi Arabian firm will purchase 1.5 million tonnes of Jordan's portland cement annually over the coming three years, in accordance with a contract signed here Thursday.

Under the contract, which was concluded with the South Cement Company (SCC) the first shipment of the cement will be exported early in May and the Saudi company will increase its imports of the product gradually.

The agreement was signed by SCC Board Chairman Hisham Al

Khatib, and Dr. Ghaith Far'oun for the Saudi Arabian company.

The SCC has recently started production at its new factory in Rashadiya, situated 250 kilometres to the south of Amman, which manufactures cement from primary materials quarried near the factory.

The factory comprises two identical production lines with an annual production capacity of one million tonnes each, the first of which started production at the beginning of April.

Supply Ministry denies silo building press report

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Supply Saturday issued a denial in response to a report in the local press saying that it will receive new grain silos in Amman, Irbid and Aqaba by the end of this year.

The report said that the ministry already has grain silos in these three cities and they have been

operating for a long time. But, it said, annexes have recently been added to the three centres in a bid to increase their storage capacity.

The ministry has no plans for any new projects in the three cities concerned, the Supply Ministry statement concluded.

Cultural links discussed with visiting Soviet team

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Culture, Youth and Antiquities Abdullah 'Oweidat discussed Saturday with a visiting cultural delegation from the Soviet foreign ministry ways of promoting Jordanian-Soviet cultural and youth relations.

At the meeting, Dr. 'Oweidat called on the relevant bodies in the Soviet Union to increase the ex-

change of archaeological expertise to Jordan and also to increase co-operation with Jordan in library, documentation and art related affairs.

The leader of the Soviet delegation, Yuri Kichenko, expressed his country's readiness to receive Jordanian delegations from the Arab world, hold exhibitions of Jordanian art and books, train sports coaches and also help to set up a science academy in Jordan.

Delegation to justice talks announced

AMMAN (J.T.) — The cabinet has announced the formation of the Jordanian delegation which will take part in the Arab justice ministers conference scheduled to open in Baghdad in mid-April.

Issues related to the unification of judicial procedure and the codification of laws in the Arab World as well as exchange visits among judicial bodies in Arab countries will be the main subjects of discussion during the conference.

First aid conference opens today

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-day conference on emergency and first aid will start Sunday at the Professional Association Complex. The conference aims to strengthen the basis for future studies and research on emergency and first aid in Jordan and the Arab World.

The conference will be attended by a number of scientists from Arab and foreign countries who will discuss their respective experiences and issue recommendations for the future.

Discussions will concentrate on the latest preventive treatments in medicine, in addition to other matters concerning general injuries, burns and traffic accidents.

The conference coincides with the Medical Services Exhibition which is being held at the King Hussein Youth City next Sunday. On show will be the latest scientific innovations in a variety of medical fields.



The costly search for oil in Jordan

By Fahed Fanek

THREE MONTHS ago information (was leaked) to the press and a dramatic announcement was made that we have finally found oil at Al-Azraq. Details of the Jordanian oil refining yield were given: 55 per cent fuel oil, 35 per cent kerosene and gasoil, and 10 per cent gasoline. The flow rate was 400 barrels a day at the depth of 5580 feet.

The enthusiasm to pursue exploration and search for oil indefinitely may reach a stage that renders cost beyond the limited means of the Treasury, including the small grant made by the World Bank — a cost

which may or may not be sufficiently justified in the light of objective assessment to the probability of finding oil under Jordanian soil, the production of which may be deemed commercially feasible.

One of the earliest actions taken by the new government was the creation of a special committee for energy affairs. This committee will be chaired by the president of the National Planning Council (PNC) to oversee all energy-related activities including the supervision of an energy programme and assistance in formulation of a comprehensive

energy policy.

The committee will also take the necessary action to enable the Energy Unit in the (NPC) to carry out its duties. This unit in turn was recently established for the implementation of the energy programme, and coordination among all bodies related to the energy sector in Jordan.

So far, the government incurred around JD 25 million in drilling and exploration, the cost is still running at an average of \$1.5 million a month.

Previously, very qualified foreign oil companies tried several times to find oil in dif-

ferent parts of the country and failed, including companies from Britain, France, the Soviet Union, United States, China and Yugoslavia.

The deep involvement in the costly exploration operations, and the natural reluctance to admit failure, and that millions have been in vein, leads inevitably to further persistence in these efforts notwithstanding the prohibitive cost of doing so.

Maintaining the course needs the creation of false hopes that the flow of oil is around the corner, and that indicators are encouraging, and that everything is fine and

in order, and all we need is only some patience and perseverance to reap the results and claim the reward.

I am afraid that, unless a miracle takes place, the results so far are disappointing, and the fact that the seventh well is giving 400 b/d is evidence to that, because this negligible amount is well below 1 per cent of our consumption of 60,000 b/d, and the production of such quantity is so costly, that the huge investments and capital outlays may not be justified.

Escaping oil at these depths may be spotted in many parts of the world, commercial oil

fields are quite different. In the absence of gas in the well, which is an established fact, only 10 per cent of whatever oil found can be extracted by means of present day technology. Perhaps, we have to come to grips with the facts, bitter as they might be.

The newly formed energy committee will be charged with the formidable task of drawing a master plan for an energy policy in Jordan. However, the first question it has to face and answer is whether or not there is enough justification for continued attrition of our scarce financial resources in our pursuit of escaping oil.

Fiddling the same old tune

FOR reaching any Middle East settlement, certain conditions have to be met. Various peace plans have invariably specified that these conditions are, but none apparently held enough promise of starting a meaningful peace process as much as the Reagan initiative of Sept. 1, 1982.

Coming as it did just days before the Arabs announced their own plan for peace in the Middle East, the Reagan initiative was hailed as a giant step towards breaking the deadlock in the area. It was understood at the time that President Reagan's proposals would satisfy completely neither the Arabs nor the Israelis but that both parties had to strike a compromise along such lines as the American president outlined in order to solve their problems.

For the Arabs to have announced their willingness to negotiate peace along President Reagan's lines they would have needed not so much Israel's acceptance of the initiative as a firm U.S. commitment to pursue serious search for lasting peace. Israel, which rejected the U.S. stance outright, was going around trying to convince everybody that Washington could not possibly live up to its commitments in as much as an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and a freeze on settlements in the West Bank were concerned.

What happened after that is recent history known to most of us. Now, however, the old story is being played all over again.

Reports from Washington during the past few weeks have suggested that the U.S. administration, having failed its mission in Lebanon earlier in the year, is again trying to revive President Reagan's initiative and concentrate solely on the search for overall peace in the Middle East.

Nothing unusual in that except for one thing. Instead of trying to cure the disease that plagued, and is slowly but surely killing all U.S. mediation efforts, namely Israel's outright rejection of the Reagan initiative, administration officials are presently minding up symptoms of the disease with its causes. Jordan and moderate Arabs, they think, would line up behind U.S. policy just because Syria and Iran are frightening them with their "successes" in the battlefields of Lebanon and the Gulf theatre.

How absurd. The Americans could never learn from their mistakes, it seems, and we would like to tell them this in so many words. If Washington will not accept the fact that Israel is the chief obstacle to achieving peace in the Middle East, then it may want to admit that at least some of what that state does definitely obstructs peace. And if the U.S. administration does not want to accept either this or that, then Frank Church, the former U.S. senator, has to be right: "... when it comes to the Third World, ... the U.S., even given the size and seriousness of American failures, simply sticks to discredited patterns of behaviour..."

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Beware of illusions

CONTINUING The policy of sowing illusions in Arab soil and fabricating gimmicks aimed at deepening the crack in Arab ranks. Shimon Peres, the Israeli opposition leader, announced that he is prepared to hold negotiations with Egypt and Jordan if the Israeli Labour Party wins the elections.

This mischievous hint does not represent a change in the Israeli view of the Palestinians problem, because real change means recognising the Palestinian people's right to self-determination by acknowledging the PLO as the legal representative of Palestinians and as a major and concerned party in efforts for achieving a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem. A real change also means giving up the policy of building settlements in the occupied territories.

It is clear that the vow taken by Peres does not include any of these signs. This reveals clearly the dangerous nature of a new offensive of Israeli false fabrications for giving the world an impression that there is an Israeli move towards compromise, in addition to making Arabs enter a futile dispute over such a compromise.

The present difficult stage facing the Palestinian cause urges the Arabs for holding an Arab summit soon, so that Arab leadership can be committed to a common plan to be implemented in expression of a unified strategy. There should be no space for awaiting a solution to the problem from the outside.

Al Dustour: Bekaa tension

SIGNS OF military tension have re-appeared in the region to remind everybody of a similar state of tension last year which ended mysteriously and was followed by a series of wars and explosions on the Arab side starting with the PLO and not yet ending in the Lebanese arena.

No doubt, enemy leaders, while planning for a possible blow, will do all in their power to make its results serve in the direction of their election campaign that does not seem to be in the interest of the ruling Likud party unless the latter, during the final stages of elections, can stir the feelings of the electorate and manipulate their instinct for partiality by a military operation which has implications in the atmosphere. These signs cannot be viewed in isolation from other signs of tension prevailing in the Lebanese Bekaa these days, where everybody realises that Israel does not risk assailing a new war without getting the green light from Washington.

Sawt Al Shaab: Reagan blames Congress

IN HIS speech Friday, the American president blamed the Congress for the failure of American policy in Lebanon, and for U.S. policy's loss of credibility in the region and in other parts of the world.

In these words we see an attempt to cast all blame on the Congress and to misrepresent political harm for which the American administration was responsible in Lebanon.

The American administration under the presidency of Reagan has increased international tension and threat of war in Europe, the Middle East, Latin America and South East Asia.

The strategic agreement between President Reagan's administration and Israel is the most dangerous American escalation in the region.

It is only natural that the American president should realise the consequences of such practices in the region and throughout the world, even though it comes very late. However, what is required from America is much more than this.



China escalates tension on border with Vietnam to release Kampuchean rebels

By Roger Crabb
Reuters

PEKING — China's bombardment of Vietnamese border posts this week has underlined its determination to insist on Hanoi's unconditional withdrawal from Kampuchea, foreign military experts said Friday.

After rejecting Vietnam's latest proposals for a diplomatic settlement, China began the shelling on Monday, allegedly in retaliation for Vietnamese armed provocations along their common border.

One official commentator said there had been 80 such incidents in the first three months of the year.

The experts said the area has been tense since the two Communist neighbours fought a brief, bloody war in 1979 after Hanoi helped topple the pro-Chinese Khmer Rouge regime of Pol Pot in Kampuchea.

They said the bombardment showed China's determination to pile as much pressure as possible on hard-pressed Vietnamese forces, recently embroiled in fighting with Thai troops after crossing into Thailand in pursuit of Khmer Rouge terrorists.

"The Chinese can open up this second front at will," said one military expert.

In the absence of impartial reports from the frontier region, the experts were unable to gauge the scale of this week's shelling, or whether it continued beyond Wednesday when the official New China News Agency last reported it.

Diplomatic analysts here agreed the upsurge of tension proved once again the importance Peking attributed to ending Vietnam's presence in Kampuchea.

Senior diplomats who follow the frosty Sino-Soviet dialogue said they believed Peking claims to rate Moscow's continuing support for Vietnam as the most important of what China calls "three obstacles" to improved Sino-Soviet relations.

The other two are the Soviet presence in Afghanistan, and Soviet troop and missile concentrations along the Chinese border.

A commentary in Friday's China Daily, headed "Countering Vietnam," firmly tied the shelling to the fighting along the Thai-Kampuchean border.

"The counter-attacks are necessary until Hanoi truly expresses

a sincere desire to withdraw completely from Kampuchea," the official commentator said.

China has continued to reject proposals by Vietnam's Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach during a recent tour of Southeast Asia and Australia for a "realistic" diplomatic solution in Kampuchea.

Mr. Thach said that Hanoi no longer regarded its main priority as the elimination of a perceived threat from China. Instead it wanted the removal of the Khmer Rouge as a military and political force in Kampuchea.

Friday's China Daily commentary said Mr. Thach's "so-called flexible policy is in fact plain stubbornness."

It added: "Hanoi actually intends to eliminate all the Khmer (Kampuchean) patriotic forces, including those led by (resistance coalition) President Norodom Sihanouk and Prime Minister Son Sann."

"In other words, only the Hanoi-backed Phnom Penh regime is entitled to rule Kampuchea, according to Thach."

China's own solution for Kampuchea remains the total withdrawal of Vietnam's estimated 180,000 troops followed by free

elections under United Nations control, and the establishment of a free, neutral, non-aligned government.

China gives aid to the Khmer Rouge as well as to the Sihanouk and Son Sann factions.

In Bangkok, Thai military authorities said they were continuing to search for stragglers from the Vietnamese force which crossed into Thailand 13 days ago. They said fighting had subsided along the border.

Thai military authorities and Western diplomats in Bangkok said Vietnam's objectives in the border area were unclear. The Khmer Rouge strongholds attacked by the Vietnamese were believed to be staging areas for recent attacks on Hanoi and Phnom Penh government forces.

Western diplomats have expressed surprise at the extent of the fighting in Thailand and the length of the operation to drive back the Vietnamese from the border area.

They said Hanoi could be trying to demonstrate to Thailand that support for Kampuchean terrorists carried a price. Thailand denies that it gives anything more than "humanitarian" aid to civilians.

La Guera kept calm despite Sahara war

By Michael Goldsmith
Associated Press

LA GUERA, Western Sahara — Artillery bunkers facing the Atlantic Ocean protect this sand-blown Sahara ghost town, one of the world's least known trouble spots.

Earlier this month, the Moroccan Army and Navy were on the verge of a seaborne invasion of the former Spanish colonial outpost, now held by Mauritania forces. Morocco has accused Mauritania's military ruler, Lt. Col. Mohamed Khounza Ould Haidalla, of allowing the Polisario guerrilla movement to transform La Guera into a major arms depot and base camp for guerrilla attacks on Moroccan desert garrisons further north.

La Guera lies in the disputed territory of Western Sahara, claimed by Morocco and the Polisario, and Mauritania maintains a crack battalion of its French-trained army here despite its formal recognition of the Polisario guerrillas' "Sahara Arab Democratic Republic."

The invasion plan was dropped at the last minute by Morocco's King Hassan II, and Mauritania troops remain in firm control of the ruined town. Their heavy artillery and machine-gun posts point toward the open sea, and some of the beaches are mined.

King Hassan apparently dropped his plan under strong pressure from France and other Western nations fearful of a new African war. Mauritania has military aid agreements with France and Algeria, and both could have been drawn into the conflict.

La Guera, once a smuggler's

paradise of 3,000 inhabitants, lies on a 30-mile-long strip of sand that just into the Atlantic at the southern end of the disputed region. The old Spanish border with formerly French-ruled Mauritania ran down the middle of the three-mile-wide sandspit where the world's largest desert reaches the Atlantic.

On the Mauritanian side of the peninsula lies Nouadhibou, the country's largest city and economic and industrial capital, the site of its only oil refinery and the terminal of the rail line carrying the iron ore that is the country's only wealth.

The ruins of La Guera stand on a barren plateau of rock and sand a few hundred yards from the Nouadhibou industrial complex. The outpost is claimed by both Morocco and Polisario.

Gen. Haidalla, in an interview in his distant capital, Nouakchot, said he intends to hold La Guera as long as the Sahara conflict remains unresolved, because "it is absolutely vital to the defence of our largest city."

But he stressed that Mauritania does not intend to annex La Guera, and will ultimately hand it over to its "rightful owners" whoever they might be.

The Organisation of African Unity is trying to organise a referendum among the 80,000 nomadic tribesmen of the Western Sahara to determine whether they want independence of annexation by Morocco, which holds most of the territory.

Meanwhile, however, Gen. Haidalla has recognised Polisario as the "sole legitimate representative" of the population.

An intensive tour of La Guera

disclosed no trace of any Polisario presence. Mauritania's yellow-green flag flies over the command post in the old Spanish fort.

Capt. Niang Harouna, commander of the Nouadhibou military region, said not a single Polisario guerrilla has set foot in the place since it was the scene of bitter fighting early in the Sahara war, when Mauritania briefly joined Morocco in the struggle against Polisario.

Bamba Ould Yazid, Mauritanian civil governor of Nouadhibou, said if either side were allowed to take over La Guera "it would surely be attacked by the other side — with inevitable destruction on our side of the border and a catastrophe for our country."

"This is why we have to hold it despite our recognition of the Polisario," he added.

Capt. Harouna and other Mauritanian officers expressed outright sympathy with Polisario's "liberation struggle."

"But it is not our struggle," Capt. Harouna said. "We are Mauritanian patriots first and foremost, and we are determined to defend our country against aggression or threats, from wherever they may come."

He made it clear that the defence of Mauritania included that of La Guera. Several times since Mauritania's military regime came to power in 1978, he said, his shore batteries have opened fire on Moroccan naval vessels that came too close to the shore. The machine gun posts strung along the beach keep a permanent watch for Moroccan or Polisario raiders.

Some 48 kilometres north of La Guera, the Mauritania have drawn a new border line between their occupation area and the open desert. Beyond that line, Polisario columns roam across the barren wilderness.

But they have made no attempt to attack the Mauritanian positions. The nearest Moroccan outpost is in Dakhla, formerly Villa Cisneros, 321 kilometres to the north. Moroccan patrols normally do not venture far south of Dkhla.

All of La Guera's civilian inhabitants have fled, many of them to Nouadhibou, and are not allowed to return. No outsider is permitted to cross the old Spanish border post between Nouadhibou and La Guera.

Under Spanish rule, La Guera was a customs-free zone, giving rise to a flourishing smuggling industry. The smugglers' old warehouses stand empty, their doors flapping in the wind.

The Mauritanian soldiers and their families live in abandoned civilian homes, but most of the town is ruined and covered with sand. A fishmeal factory, La Guera's only industry, was wrecked by Spanish troops when they left in 1975.

Smashed Spanish trucks and heavy guns abandoned by the Spanish army lie rusting in the desert sun. A branch of the Spanish Foreign Bank (Banco Exterior d'Espana) stands wrecked and spattered with bullet holes, facing the empty town square. The outline of Spain's coat of arms is still visible over the stone fort, a relic of a forgotten past.

Not a single tree grows in La Guera.

Path to White House is paved with gold

By Rodney Pinder
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Millions of dollars already paved the campaign trail to the presidency of the United States and many more millions will be spent before the fight is over.

Official figures show at least \$40 million have been spent so far by eight major candidates seeking the Democratic Party's nomination and the right to face President Reagan.

About \$21 million were expended futilely by the five who have already quit the opposition party's race.

Of the survivors, estimates are that ex-Vice President Walter Mondale had spent about 13 million by Tuesday's New York primary, Colorado Sen. Gary Hart four million or more, and black leader Jesse Jackson about two million.

By the time of the Nov. 6 general election, over \$300 million will have been spent on wooing American voters by conservative estimates.

Some critics say the cost is such as to make the system undemocratic. Worthy candidates of modest means are being shut out, they say.

But others argue that the impact of money is overstated and note that the best-financed candidates do not always win.

They point to the startling success of Sen. Hart, who was all but broke when his campaign took off with an upset victory in the Feb. 28 New Hampshire primary.

He had been forced to take a \$45,000 second mortgage on his \$190,000 suburban Washington home days earlier in order to carry on. The day after his win, donations totalling \$250,000 flooded in and he has had few money worries since. Aides say cash is coming in daily in six-figure sums.

Like most candidates for major U.S. office, Sen. Hart relies heavily on mass-mail solicitations to raise money. Other techniques include telephone contacts and fund-raising galas.

Presidential nomination candidates also get "matching funds" from the government for sums raised in small amounts. This can add many extra millions to campaign coffers but, in return, the candidates must observe spending limits.

This year, each may spend \$20 million on political operations through the summertime nominating conventions — a limit that is now putting a squeeze on Mr. Mondale because of his heavy early spending, while leaving Sen. Hart far more leeway.

The government also gives the Republican and Democratic parties \$6 million each for the conventions.

The two major party nominees will get 40.4 million each in public funds to finance their general election campaigns.

Finally, the parties and many other groups and individuals spend vast sums of their own on behalf of favoured candidates.

Total spending on the 1980 presidential campaign added up to \$275 million, including about 108 million from the government, according to the White House.

And the cost of failure? Former astronaut John Glenn spent 12 million before dropping out with debts of 2.5 million, aides said. Alan Cranston spent five million and owes almost 1.5 million.

The debtors face still more months of fund-raising through special dinners, barbecues, rock concerts and soliciting by mail and phone. In a spirit of political fellowship, the winners usually help their former rivals erase their debts.

The Democratic Party took 14 years to clear \$9 million in debt incurred by the Robert Kennedy and Hubert Humphrey campaigns of 1968, but the major drop-outs this time told Reuters they expected to be clear by year's end or before.

"Their fame or notoriety is such that in the long term none loses," said political scientist Stephen Wayne.

LETTERS

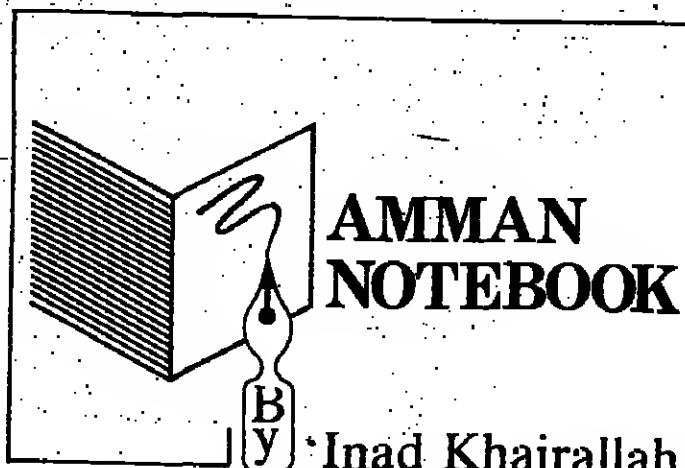
A memorable programme

To the Editor:

I would like to express my appreciation for Jordan Television for organising a memorable programme shown on the occasion of the state visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and His Highness Prince Philip of Edinburgh. I am sure these opinions of mine are shared by many others too.

The programmes have imprinted a vivid image of Jordan, which everyone of us foreigners will carry in our minds to our countries. I am indeed grateful for this enlightening one-and-a-half hours. Thank you JTV!

Suparna Srinivasan,
Ma'an, Jordan.



AMMAN NOTEBOOK

Inad Khairallah

THE OTHER DAY I found a normally cheerful and amiable colleague of mine in an agitated and foul mood, fretting around in the office. "I am ruined. I am ruined," he was lamenting, looking at a paper in front of him.

I made some sympathetic noises and asked him what the matter was. He looked at the paper once again and thrust it into my hands. "Have a look at that," he said.

"and you will know."

It was a telephone bill for a 30-day period and the amount was 103 dinars and some odd, mostly charges of international calls to the U.S. I failed to see why it should upset my friend so much and told him so.

He looked at me spitefully as if I was the one who used his telephone. "As you can see all the calls are to the U.S. and it might

interest you to hear that I don't have even one acquaintance, leave alone friends, in the whole of America, whom I might call," he told me.

So, it was apparently a mistake on the part of the telephone billing people and the best thing to do was to contact them to correct it. I advised him.

"What do you think I am? Stupid?" He almost exploded. "The first thing I did after receiving the bill yesterday was to contact the Telephone Department. They assured me there was no possibility whatsoever of such a mistake, and the calls have been made from my number."

That was real bad, I told him, and asked him whether he was sure none of his neighbours took advantage of his telephone.

"Some fat chance they have," he snorted. "My standing instruction to the wife is to tell the neighbours that our phone is out of order, and she wouldn't dream of letting the neighbours use the phone."

"You know, it was only last October I got my 'phone installed," he continued. "It took some three years of patient waiting before the line was allotted. The first bill was okay; some 11 dinars. But this second one has really shocked me."

"Just imagine," he appealed to me, "how can I pay 103 dinars as telephone charges when my whole salary for the month is 285 dinars?"

He had a point there, I had to concede. However, I was perplexed and decided to get into the bottom of the thing, as I was also expecting a telephone connection soon. So, I ordered a cup of coffee for my friend who accepted it rather absent-mindedly, and asked him what he was going to do. Pay for the calls he hasn't made?

"Who says the calls weren't made? Of course, they were made," he replied and I would see that he was getting more and more agitated. "Do you know who was making the calls?" he asked me, making me suddenly nervous, bus-

ily recollecting any instance when I had been to his house and was unfortunate to have used his 'phone. I could not recollect any, so I said, no, I did not know who was making the calls.

"My 10-year-old daughter and eight-year-old son," he told me. "And you know whom they were calling?"

I said no, I did not know. "Their penpals in the U.S.," he banged his fist on the table, upsetting the cup of coffee. He ignored it and continued: "I curse the day when some jerk ever thought of the word 'penpals'."

How did he discover that his children made the calls? I asked him.

"After reaching the office this morning, I had a sudden idea," he explained, "and I called my house and asked my daughter whether there was any chance she was the one who made the calls."

"And the cat was out of the bag," he continued. "However, she was gracious to add that her younger brother also does the same thing."

"Let me reach home this afternoon, and I will make them sorry they were born," he vowed.

One thing puzzled me: How could a 10-year-old get to know the elaborate process of the code numbered dialling of an international call? I asked the miserable father.

"That is what I asked my daughter too," he told me. "She was reluctant to tell me, but it seems that one of her elderly friends at the school, evidently from a rich family which can afford high telephone bills, has coached her and she in turn trained her brother."

But then again, I persisted, how could they escape the attention of their mother who could very easily spot the dialling of an irregular number?

"Well, she is always too busy in the kitchen or gossiping with the neighbours," the sad husband answered.

In the meantime, another colleague of ours, who was a silent listener all the while, chipped in:

"You should have known your children."

"Look at me," he added, "do you know what I did?" We said no, we did not know. "I cost me only 18 dinars to fix an electronic gadget which controls international calls," he beamed. "It has a key too," he announced and patted his pocket. "I keep it right here. When I want to call my cousin in Bahrain, I just open the gadget and the line is open. When I finish I close it again."

I turned to my friend and told him it would be a good idea if he too installed a similar device. He was of course interested and wanted to know where he could buy one. Our colleague gave him the directions to a shop somewhere in downtown. My friend seemed relieved. I told him it cost him only 121 dinars to learn a lesson and wondered if it wasn't cheap?

"Don't tell me," he said. "Earlier this month I paid 65 dinars to the repair shop just because my two-year-old brat decided to poke a

spoon into the video. Would you call that too a lesson?"

I fell silent. By then the boss walked in and we all got to work. It was not until sometime later, after the boss had left the office, that a sudden thought struck me. I hated to think what it would do to my friend but since I felt my duty as a friend called on me to do so, I decided to tell him.

I went over to his desk and asked him whether it occurred to him that the bill for 103 dinars he had was for a 30-day period, some two months earlier.

He looked confused. "What are you trying to tell me?" he demanded to know. I gave it to him straight: "The bill you have is only for a period two months earlier. What about the calls your children made after that?"

It took a minute before the idea registered in him, but by then it was too late. All I heard was a loud crash and it took me a split second to realise that my friend had fainted.

Catalonia thriving after autonomy

WASHINGTON — Freed from the repression of nearly 40 years under the dictatorship of Francisco Franco, able to use their native language once more, and with their 800-year-old governing body restored to authority, the six million residents of the autonomous region of Catalonia are enjoying what one of them calls the sweetest liberation in Spain.

The liberation is especially sweet because it comes after a period in which Catalans had only a few major symbols — the Barcelona soccer club, the thousand-year-old monastery of Montserrat — by which to preserve their cultural identity.

Yet they persevered, cherishing their language as a unifying force,

and now those who live where Mediterranean Spain meets France, in an area slightly larger than the state of Maryland, are luxuriating in their hard-won freedom.

Commercial crossroads

A trade centre since antiquity, Catalonia has periodically been ruled by outsiders, including Spain's dominant Castilians, who excluded the port of Barcelona from lucrative New World trade until 1778. Still, the region thrived at a variety of times in a variety of ways, especially in the way Barcelona, in which half the Catalans live, took advantage of its Mediterranean setting.

The Catalans are descendants of a succession of invading Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans, and Visigoths. The Moors attempted to dominate Catalonia in the eighth century.

But the Catalans held on, and by the late Middle Ages, the counts of Catalonia had expanded their mercantile and military empire into Provence, Valencia, Sardinia, Sicily, and Greece.

"The tide began to turn against Catalonia in 1469 when Isabella of Castile married Ferdinand of Aragon and Catalonia," writes Randall Peffer in the January National Geographic. "Gradually the Catalan nation slipped under the control of Spanish monarchs from the Habsburg and Bourbon Dynasties. The land lost its last vestiges of independence when King Philip V of Spain vanquished the Catalan forces in 1714."

Mr. Peffer, a teacher at Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass., spent nine months in Barcelona for the School Year Abroad. He writes that the Catalans chafed under autocratic kings and military leaders for two centuries. A short-lived republic was proclaimed in 1931, but the bloody Spanish Civil War of 1936-39 led to its downfall, and Gen. Franco's Nationalists took control of all of Spain.

Language outlawed

Francisco outlawed the Catalan language and folk traditions, intent on destroying the strong regionalism that has always divided Spain, Mr. Peffer says. But the Catalans maintained their identity, singing forbidden songs and chanting in the forbidden lan-

guage at Barcelona soccer matches drawing inspiration from a magazine of Catalan culture and history published by the monks of Montserrat.

After Franco's death in 1975, the Spanish government recognised Catalonia as co-official with Spanish. The region was declared autonomous, and its traditional governing body — the Generalitat — was given the right to rule in regional matters of trade, primary education, industry, and housing.

Autonomy has not solved all of Catalonia's problems, Mr. Peffer writes. Inflation stands at an annual rate of 12 per cent, unemployment at 22 per cent. The region's workers and managers, after decades in which their factories were ruled by a far-off regime, are not used to taking pride in their work. Many factories face huge deficits.

Still, the region's economy is booming in many respects. There are canneries and agricultural co-operatives, chemical factories and oil refineries, and on the Costa Brava, a thriving tourist industry that attracts visitors from all over Europe.

Apart from economics, however, it is the culture of Catalonia, proud and free-spirited, that is the region's greatest wealth. There are Catalan poets and writers, Catalan artists like the late Joan Miró, Catalan singers and musicians.

Potatoes in the earth

And there is a basic level of earthy practicality in the way Catalans view the world, an attitude that helped see them through the hard centuries, Mr. Peffer tells of one Catalan who predicted that



Pyrenees guide Rosendo Caubet serves vin cau, a hot drink steeped with figs, apples, raisins, and peaches, to his nephew Hilario Ramos at the home of Caubet's sister Lucia (upper left). Sharing the evening

meal is a rite of family in Viella, high in the mountains of Spain's autonomous region of Catalonia.

Western world.

"We're like potatoes simply sitting here in this rich earth, not bothering anybody, taking care of

business."

Ultimately, Mr. Peffer found, Catalans have "seny," a word in their distinctive Romance tongue that also is spoken in the Balearic

Islands, in Valencia, and in parts of Sardinia and southern France.

It describes a trait usual in Catalans," a Catalan woman told Mr. Peffer. "When persons have

seny, they are proper: they know what they want, have good sense, some people think they are driven." — National Geographic feature.

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Liverpool leaves joggers behind

LONDON (R) — Having seen off all but one of their rivals, Liverpool issued an ominous warning to Manchester United that they fully intend holding onto the English Soccer Championship with a stunning display against West Ham Saturday.

Liverpool, who possess a never-ending reservoir of stamina, crushed the Londoners 6-0 with contemptuous ease and actually appear to be gaining in strength as the title run-in begins in earnest.

Manchester United, looking like a middle-aged jogger by comparison, struggled to beat Birmingham 1-0 to retain a tenuous hold on Liverpool's shirt tails.

With eight games remaining, United are still two points adrift and, with a slightly easier fixture list, Liverpool are odds-on favourites to lift the title for the seventh time in nine seasons and add the championship trophy to the League Cup which is already at Anfield.

The majestic 'Reds' warmed up for their European Cup semifinal first-leg against Romania's Dinamo Bucharest on Wednesday with an awesome display of fast, imaginative football which left West Ham, who started the day in fourth place, gasping for breath.

Liverpool raced into a 4-0 lead

within 30 minutes with two goals by Ian Rush — taking his tally for the season to 38 — and one apiece from Kenny Dalglish and Ronnie Whelan.

The points secure, Liverpool mercifully eased off after the interval and contented themselves with a double from captain Graeme Souness.

Although Dalglish's name appeared only once on the list of goalscorers, he remains the man dynamo must stifle if they are to continue in Europe. He set up the other five goals and again proved conclusively he is the undisputed king of the English game.

United, in contrast, found goals hard to come by against the well-organised Birmingham defence and owed their victory to a 27th minute strike by England captain Bryan Robson.

But United's frustrating afternoon was best summed up in injury time when England midfielder Ray Wilkins had a twice-taken penalty saved by Birmingham goalkeeper Tony Coton.

Nottingham Forest, who meet holders Anderlecht of Belgium in the UEFA Cup on Wednesday, remained a distant third with a fine 3-1 home win over West Bromwich.

Forest, who are now three points clear of fourth-placed Queen's Park Rangers but nine behind Liverpool, went ahead when Colin Walsh, who missed an eighth-minute penalty, made amends by beating goalkeeper Paul Barron from the spot 14 minutes later.

England fullback Viv Anderson added the second shortly before the interval and although Gary Thompson pulled one back for the visitors, Ian Bowyer quickly restored Forest's two-goal advantage.

Queen's Park Rangers boosted their hopes of a UEFA Cup place next season and deepened Ipswich's relegation fears in the process with a 1-0 win at Loftus Road. Clive Allen scoring the only goal in the 56th minute.

Once-mighty Wolverhampton are in even more serious trouble. Only 7,481 fans turned up at Molineux — the lowest attendance for 46 years — for the bottom-of-the-table clash with Notts County.

And the fears of the missing fans proved justified as County

carved out a precious 1-0 win to leave Wolverhampton nine points adrift at the foot of the league.

European Cupwinners Cup holders Aberdeen, who meet Portugal's Porto in Wednesday's semifinal first-leg, stayed on course for the Scottish Premier Championship with a hard-fought 2-1 home win over bottom club Motherwell.

But with Glasgow Celtic and reigning champions Dundee United unexpectedly dropping points, Aberdeen are now four points clear with two games in hand.

Mark McGhee and Gordon Strachan shot Aberdeen into a 2-0 lead at the interval, but they were forced to hold on grimly towards the end when John Rafferty reduced the lead midway through the second half.

But second-placed Celtic fared even worse against relegation candidates St. Johnstone in Perth where they were held to a goalless draw.

And Dundee United will have to show a vast improvement if they are to survive their European Cup semifinal clash with Italian Champions Roma on Wednesday. They lost 1-0 at Hibernian — Willie Jamieson scoring the only goal — and are now eight points off the pace.

Lauda romps to triumph at Kyalami

KYALAMI, South Africa (R) — Austrian Niki Lauda scored his first Grand Prix victory for almost two years when he beat his McLaren teammate Alain Prost of France by more than a minute in the South African Formula One race here Saturday.

The 35-year-old double World Champion lapped all but Prost after holding the lead almost unchallenged from the 30th lap. He fleetingly lost the front spot midway through the race because of a tyre change but quickly regained it from Finland's Keke Rosberg.

Prost also drove superbly to post a one-two success for the McLaren team after being forced to start from the back of the field when a frozen fuel pump halted him on the warm-up lap.

He stormed through the back markers and was up with the leaders before the halfway stage.

Briton Derek Warwick, in a Renault, filled third spot followed by two Italians, Riccardo Patrese (Alfa Romeo) and Andrea de Cesaris (Ligier), and Brazilian Ayrton Senna in a Toleman.

Prost, winner of the season's opening race in Brazil, stays in front in the World Drivers' Championship with 15 points. Lauda is second on nine and Rosberg, who came second in Brazil but failed to finish Saturday, third with six points.

Only Lauda, whose 19th Grand Prix win came at Brands Hatch, England in July 1982, appeared safe from the mechanical and tyre problems which bedevilled most of the leading teams.

"The car was perfect from beginning to end. It feels really good this victory because I didn't win anything last year, so I thought I'd better get winning again."

"At the moment McLaren is the best team but we have to work hard to maintain this position."

The Brabham of World Champion Nelson Piquet, who started in pole position and led for 22 laps, and Italian Teo Fabi, were forced out of the race before halfway.

Rosberg, the second man on the grid, and third-placed starter Nigel Mansell of Britain in a Lotus also fell to mechanical trouble with more than 20 laps to go.

The drama began before the race started, with Prost left stranded as the cars went round on their warm-up lap. He was forced to start from the pits at the tail end of the field in the team's reserve car.

A stalled engine in Elio de Angelis' Lotus on the grid caused the start to be delayed and the race was reduced by one lap to 75.

The four points Warwick collected was some compensation after mechanical problems forced him out of the Brazilian race when he appeared headed for certain victory.

Frenchman Patrick Tambay, in the other Renault, seemed to be a victim of the new restrictions which preclude refuelling stops. He is believed to have run out of fuel on the 67th lap when lying third.

Prost said: "I am still leading the championship so I am very happy. The worst for me was the first 30 laps, then I got into second place and I was happy to stay behind Niki."

Senna, who registered his first Grand Prix point in only his second event, collapsed as he got out of his car at the end of the race and was taken to the circuit medical centre where an official said he was suffering from muscle spasms.



U.S. SWIMMING CHAMPION Tracy Caulkins holds 47 championship titles, the most won by any American swimmer. Caulkins trains with the Florida Aquatic Swim Team, one of some 4,000 swimming clubs in the United States that are training Olympic-class swimmers and divers.

Florida Aquatic Swim Team, one of some 4,000 swimming clubs in the United States that are training Olympic-class swimmers and divers.

U.S. swim clubs produce world class athletes

By Michael Hurd

At the Mission Viejo International Swim Complex in California, coach Mark Schubert's young swimmers — the Mission Viejo Nadadores Swim Team — usually finish the first of two two-hour daily workouts by 8:45 a.m.

In an adjacent pool, a group of divers plunges from boards and platforms into the water, others nearby perfect dives on a trampoline and on dry-land pits using a safety harness.

Practice, practice, practice. It has brought success and excellence to the four-pool Mission Viejo Club — dubbed a "swimming factory" — that produced top swimmers in former Olympians Shirley Babashoff and Brian Goodell and in current stars Tiffany Cohen (13-time U.S. national champion) and Ricardo Prado.

Mission Viejo is one of 4,000 swim clubs across the United States that provide lessons and training annually for thousands of people from infants to senior citizens. It is the competitive, not recreational programmes that bring recognition to a club.

The Nadadores — currently numbering more than 400 swimmers — have won 35 national team championships in the last 11 years. Individually, they've won three gold, four silver and one bronze Olympic medals, five individual world championships and 118 individual U.S. championships. They've broken 86 American and 20 world records.

The 45-member diving team, coached by Ron O'Brien, also has enjoyed success, winning 24 consecutive national titles and spawning such notables as two-time

Olympian Greg Louganis and Olympic gold medalist Jennifer Chandler.

"What makes the programme go is a group of good people, with talent and skill," O'Brien said. "And we operate in a positive atmosphere."

Architect of the Nadadores' swimming programme is the 34-year-old Schubert, who became head of the fledgling Mission Viejo programme in 1972. He and O'Brien both will coach the 1984 U.S. Olympic team.

While other clubs conduct bake sales and other events to raise money for coaches' salaries, upkeep of facilities and travel expenses, Mission Viejo operates on a \$500,000-plus annual budget. A half-million dollars comes from the corporate sponsorship of the Mission Viejo Co. (parent company is Philip Morris, Inc.). In addition, the Nadadores' booster club raises about \$70,000 a year.

"It's expensive to do what we do, but when the main interest is community identity and pride, it's a lot less expensive to promote those things as wholesome sports," said Gerry Ognibene, Mission Viejo Co. vice president. "This is a very heavy sports-

oriented community — not just in swimming. We have over 200 soccer teams and 140 Little League (baseball) teams."

Schubert runs a rigorous, disciplined programme — failure to adhere to the rules during workouts can result in a quick 50 push-ups.

His programme is not for everyone. "Some people feel it's over-demanding," said Mary T. Meagher, current world record holder in the 100- and 200-metre butterfly. "But after working with Mark, there's no wonder people like it here."

At other American swim clubs, the drive is just as keen.

The Florida Aquatic Swim Team has 190 swimmers and won the last two U.S. men's championships. Among the club's swimmers is Tracy Caulkins (whose 47 national titles are the most by any swimmer in U.S. history).

"We feel we outwork most people," said Skip Foster, Florida's assistant coach. "We're in a good environment, like California, and can attract good swimmers." — USA Today.

Czechoslovakia, Italy draw

VERONA, Italy (R) — Czechoslovakia kept their 31-year unbeaten record against Italy intact Saturday when they held the World Cup holders to an uninspiring 1-1 draw in a friendly soccer match here.

Italy went ahead when Salvatore Bagni got a foot to the ball in a goalmouth scramble after 33 minutes. Bruno Conti nearly made it 2-0 with a powerful half-volley which goalkeeper Miklosko managed to tip round the post.

Italy's manager Enzo Bearzot made three changes at halftime which appeared to unsettle the team and it came as no surprise when the East Europeans equalised after 67 minutes.

Zalesky, on the right, avoided advancing substitute goalkeeper Giovanni Galli and crossed for Griga to nod home.

The Czechoslovaks were playing their last game under retiring manager Frantisek Havranek. Jozef Masopust, who scored Czechoslovakia's goal in the 1962 World Cup final won by Brazil 3-1, will now direct 1986 World Cup preparations.

Bearzot, philosophical as usual, said he was still at an experimental stage with his side.

McEnroe, Lendl into final

TOKYO (R) — The world's two top tennis players, John McEnroe of the United States and Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, overpowered their opponents Saturday to win through to the final of a \$250,000 four-man exhibition tennis tournament.

McEnroe, 25, outplayed 31-year-old compatriot Jimmy Connors 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 while Lendl was similarly convincing against France's Yannick Noah, winning 6-2, 4-6, 6-2.

Connors, the U.S. Open champion, pleased the crowd of almost 13,000 with his brilliant passing shots to take the first set but McEnroe rallied to take the final two sets with superior serving and volleying.

Noah made a strong challenge in the second set with good passing shots towards Lendl's backhand to take the last four games. But Lendl regained his form to beat the Frenchman in the decisive third set 6-2.

The McEnroe-Lendl encounter will be their second exhibition match since McEnroe devastated Lendl 6-1, 6-1 in the final of the Belgian Indoor Tennis Championship in Brussels on March 11.

McEnroe said he hoped to be back in shape after his exhibition appearances in Hong Kong, Osaka and Tokyo to prepare for the French Open and Wimbledon Championships.

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Interested qualified persons should send their curriculum vitae handwritten in English to Field Personnel Officer, Jordan - Amman P.O. Box 484. Candidates will be subjected to written tests in Accountancy and English.

Deadline for receiving applications 23 April 1984

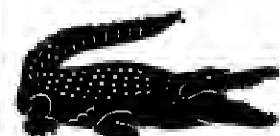
N.B.: Candidates who applied for the post in response to our previous advertisements in August and November 1983 need not apply again.

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China to open up more cities to foreign capital

PEKING (R) — China Saturday announced it will open up 14 more cities to overseas investment as part of its plans to woo foreign capital and technology.

The New China News Agency (NCNA) said the move was considered a major step forward in implementing the communist country's policy of improving ties with the outside world.

It said the coastal cities would adopt the flexible economic policies already being implemented in four southern special economic zones, which offer foreign companies business incentives to set up there.

China's leader Mr. Deng Xiaoping toured one of the zones in January. He afterwards voiced his support for the policy of giving special incentives to attract foreign capital and said the door should be opened further.

Communist Party General Secretary Hu Yaobang said last month foreign investors would be allowed to go in for joint ventures or be sole owners of enterprises in selected cities.

Chinese officials and economists have given elaborate explanations to justify the zones in a communist state.

Several of the cities named in the NCNA report were old treaty ports which imperial China was forced to open to foreign trade under treaties with Britain, France, Germany and the United States in the last century.

Most Chinese denounced the treaties as unequal.

The cities are Dalian, Qinhuangdao, Tianjin, Yantai, Qingdao, Lianyungang, Nantong, Shanghai, Ningbo, Wenzhou, Fuzhou, Canton, Zhanjiang and Beihai.

NCNA said that together with the four economic zones at Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Shantou in the south, and Xiamen (Amoy) in Fujian province, the cities would be centres of foreign economic activity along the coast.

The agency said the policy of opening up to foreign capital was discussed at a 12-day forum in Peking, where delegates considered ways of accelerating development of the port cities and of making use of more technology and funds from overseas.

Japan, U.S. fail to narrow gap over shipping convention

TOKYO (R) — Japan and the United States Friday failed to narrow their differences over a pact aimed at giving developing countries a bigger share in the world shipping business, transport ministry sources said Friday.

Friday was the third and last day of bilateral shipping talks in Tokyo.

The sources said the Japanese government planned to place the convention before parliament for ratification during the current session in order to cooperate with developing countries in establishing a new order in the world shipping market.

The U.S. side had asked Japan to join in a boycott of the convention, designed to foster domestic shipping industries, they said.

The convention, which was adopted in April, 1974 and came into force last October, provides for the countries shipping and receiving cargoes to be eligible to handle 40 per cent of the shipping each.

Third parties would be entitled to 20 per cent, according to the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Fed raises discount rate to 9%

WASHINGTON (R) — The Federal Reserve Board (Fed) announced Friday that it is raising its main lending rate to nine per cent from 8.5 per cent effective on Monday.

The rise in the central bank's so-called discount rate follows recent increases in the prime lending rate which U.S. banks charge their most creditworthy customers.

The change in the discount rate, which the central bank charges on loans to member banks, is the first since it was lowered to 8.5 per cent from nine per cent in December 1982.

In its brief announcement, the Fed said the rate was being raised "in light of the relatively wide spread that has developed in recent weeks between short-term market rates and the discount rate."

Financial analysts had said that a discount rate increase would be viewed as a signal that the Fed was tightening its grip on credit in an effort to curb rapid economic growth and prevent a rise in inflation.

The economy grew at a substantial annual rate of 7.2 per cent in the first quarter of this year, according to recent preliminary estimates by the Commerce Department.

In the fourth quarter of 1983, the economy slowed to an annual 4.9 per cent after surging in previous months, a development many economists and officials regarded with relief.

But the Commerce Department forecast and several other economic indicators that point to fast growth have led a number of experts to predict that U.S. inflation might hit seven per cent by the end of 1984.

Gulf governments groom private sector

BAHRAIN (R) — Gulf governments are increasingly turning to the private sector in an effort to spread their oil wealth more evenly and broaden their economies by luring capital away from overseas investments.

Until now, the governments have been the dominant force behind industrialisation because the private sector was insufficiently developed and opportunities for private investment at home were severely limited.

The six Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar, committed billions of dollars to develop heavy industry and the Saudi government built industrial cities in the desert.

But now they are starting to sell state-owned industries to the public and offering financial incentives to encourage the increasingly confident and entrepreneurial private sector to invest in projects making use of the new industries.

Bankers and diplomats said a main priority must be to combat investor's get-rich-quick attitudes which led to the crash of Kuwait's stock markets three times in the last decade.

By supporting the private sector, the governments hope to reduce the big gap between rich and poor which exists despite some of the highest living standards in the world.

Thus would minimise tribal and sectarian differences and reduce dependence on uncertain petroleum revenues, they said.

Governments must also strive to build investor confidence, threatened by the 42-month-old war between Iran and Iraq and the recent sharp downturn in the region's oil revenues.

Apart from incentives to keep funds at home, including tax holidays and cheap loans, governments are also creating channels for investment where there have been relatively few in the past.

Bahrain and the UAE are planning official stock exchanges to regulate share-trading, boost confidence and help raise private capital.

A recent public share offering by Saudi Basic Industries (Sabic) is seen in the Gulf as a big step in greater public participation in industrial development.

The company, formed in 1976 to develop industries based on the country's oil and mineral wealth, recently offered 20 per cent of its shares to the public in all six GCC states and eventually 75 per cent of the company is to be floated.

In the UAE, where Emirates General Petroleum Corporation is studying selling some 40 per cent of its shares, finance minister Sheikh Hamad bin Rashid Al Maktoum said he hoped the Sabic experience would be followed in other Gulf countries.

The private sector would be allowed to join in government-owned projects in the UAE "provided it plays an effective economic role," he said.

Saudi Arabia's development plan for 1985-90 calls for the sale of most of its shares in Petromin which markets much of the country's oil.

The government is also encouraging the National Industries Corporation, a firm set up by Saudi businessmen to develop medium-sized private industries.

Last year inflation in the United States fell to 3.8 per cent, its lowest level in years.

President Reagan's advisers have called publicly on the independent central bank not to upset the economic expansion, saying that economic growth would probably slow down soon.

But in recent weeks, interest rates have risen as scepticism grew in financial markets that Congress and the White House would be unable to agree on deep cuts in the huge budget U.S. deficits in the \$180 billion range.

Major U.S. banks Thursday raised their prime lending rates to 12 per cent from 11.5 per cent.

Financial analysts said demand for business loans, fuelled by the economic expansion, had also driven interest rates up, leaving the Fed with little choice but to raise the discount rate.

Meanwhile, the U.S. unemployment rate remained unchanged at 7.8 per cent in March, the Labour Department said Friday.

Even though the jobless rate held steady, the report showed strong economic growth continued to spur further improvements in the job market as 250,000 workers found jobs last month.

March was the first month in which the jobless rate has not dropped since July and August last year when it remained at 9.5 per cent.

But it was the 16th straight month in which the rate has not risen.

Unemployment hit a peak of 10.7 per cent in November 1982 as the economic slump was drawing to a close.

A Labour Department analyst said it was not surprising that the jobless rate stayed the same last month, given the long downward trend, and Labour Secretary Raymond Donovan said in a television interview that he hoped for further declines.

Qatar projects 4.98b riyal budget deficit

DOHA (R) — Qatar's ministry of finance and petroleum said Saturday it projected a 4.98 billion riyal (\$1.37 billion) budget deficit in the fiscal year which started on April 2. Finance and Petroleum Minister Abdul-Aziz bin Khalifa Al Thani said the government expected to spend 16.95 billion riyals (\$4.64 billion), but earn only 11.97 billion riyals (\$3.27 billion) in the year. He did not say how the shortfall would be financed. Last year, the government projected a deficit of 5.35 billion riyals (\$1.47 billion), with revenues sliding to 8.91 billion riyals (\$2.45 billion) from 18.08 billion (\$4.97 billion) the previous year. No actual spending and revenue figures were given for last year. However, bankers believe last year's budget projection may have substantially overstated the size of the budget deficit.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 1984

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day and evening when a considerable amount of confusion can be in effect, and you need to take care of your health against fatigue. You can turn this day to your advantage by the use of tact.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Avoid tension in the outside world, and get busy keeping promises you have made. Come to a better understanding with your mate.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) If you depend more on an outside partner, you can handle difficult situations very easily, so don't run off on a tangent of some sort.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Keep busy at work and you come out on top, but be sure you don't take on added expenses. Don't lose your temper.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Avoid that irate partner. Concentrate on pleasures you want to enjoy. Show that you have poise and tact.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Forget work that is annoying; enjoy the long-time pleasures at home and relieve tension. Catch up on worthwhile reading.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Good day to find the right solution to whatever has been mystifying to you for a long time. Make a copy of what you write.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Ideal day to concentrate on money and property matters. Get advice from an older person. State your aims clearly.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Rely on your experiences of the past for the solution to today's problems. Don't waste time with those who gossip.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Discuss project that with an expert before going into it. Your mate can help to make your life much easier in the future.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You are not thinking quite straight now, but a good friend can be helpful, so listen to advice given you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be most efficient at banding outside work since it can bring in fine benefits. Enjoy some hobby in the evening.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Try a different route where some difficult situation is concerned, and get good results. Avoid an irate friend.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be one who will use wisely any situations or ideas that have been acceptable for a long time, so encourage this and teach to avoid gossip. One who will have much love of home and kin, but should learn to love others as well.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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Key economic targets slip as French austerity begins second year

PARIS (R) — Key economic targets appear to be slipping out of reach as France's economy enters the second year of an austerity programme, economists and banking sources say.

The programme, launched at the end of March 1983, brought to an end inflationary policies with which the socialists swept to power in the 1981 elections.

It ushered in strict control of the domestic economy with the aim of curbing spending, holding down wages, slashing the trade deficit and bringing France's high inflation rate closer into line with that of its major trading partners.

The first year of austerity helped cut the country's huge trade deficit to 42.3 billion francs (\$5.3 billion) last year from 92.7 billion francs (\$11.6 billion) in 1982.

Finance Minister Jacques Delors is counting on an export-led recovery, with France taking advantage of economic upturn abroad while keeping the lid firmly on home consumption.

But the signs are that, while continuing to fall, the trade deficit will far exceed an official 1984 target of seven billion francs (\$875 million).

Boosted by the effect of the strong dollar on oil imports, it reached 10.1 billion francs (\$1.3 billion) in January and February alone.

Private bankers and economists forecast a trade deficit in the range of 25 to 30 billion francs (\$3.1 to 3.8 billion) this year, four times Mr. Delors' target.

If the trade outlook is not as encouraging as hoped, the government can still point to a great improvement over 1983, but progress on prices may be slowed and more painful.

"They've done a lot better on the trade deficit than they have on inflation," one financial source commented.

Prices rose 9.3 per cent in 1983, an improvement on annual inflation of more than 13 per cent in the early 1980s but above an eight per cent target.

Perhaps more surprisingly, last year's figure also exceeded the annual nine per cent inflation rate prevailing when the austerity package came in last March.

Price rises are expected to slow by the end of this year, but almost certainly not as far as the government's official target of an annual five per cent.

Senior finance ministry officials said last month that Mr. Delors would be happy with six per cent, while private bankers and economists believe seven to 7.5 per cent is more realistic.

This would be much higher than the rate in virtually all France's major trading competitors except Italy and would leave French industry still at a disadvantage in export markets.

Prices rose by 0.7 per cent in each of the first two months of this year, with import prices kept high by the strong dollar.

There are signs that the annual rate should decline sharply in the next five to six months as the high monthly rates of spring 1983 work their way out of the index, but economists say there could be a short-term rise again in the autumn.

The austerity programme's aim of damping down growth at home by discouraging private spending has paid off, however.

France's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by only 0.5 per cent last year after increasing by 1.9 per cent in 1982.

The official forecast is for expansion of one per cent this year.

Economists expect consumers' buying power to fall by around one per cent in real terms this year, emphasising the French government's dependence on exports to lead the recovery.

Mr. Delors warned earlier last month that the austerity measures would have to be tightened if world economic growth failed to provide expanding markets for French exports.

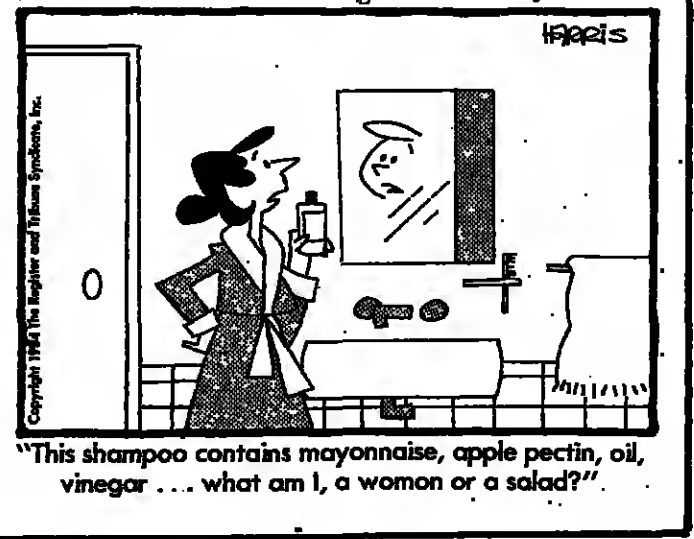
He explicitly rejected deflation accompanied by competitive devaluation.

But the political problem facing the government, elected on a promise to reduce unemployment, is that the jobless total shows no sign of falling.

Seasonally-adjusted unemployment reached 2.19 million or about 10 per cent of the labour force in February up from 2.02 million in February 1983.

The high number of people out of work is due partly to a government strategy of industrial rationalisation which has already sparked social unrest this year with the announcement of job and production cuts in the coal and shipbuilding industries.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GUCHO

RATIE

UNTAUM

DILFED

WHAT TIME IS IT WHEN CLOTHES WEAR OUT?

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

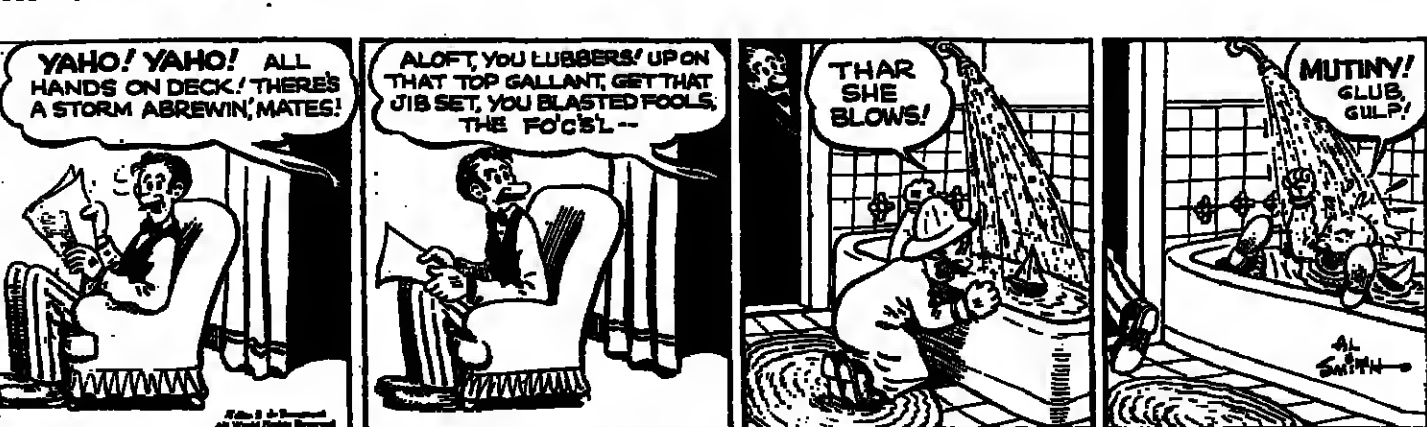
Yesterday's Jumbles: ELOPE GROUP BLOUSE MAGNET

Answer: What those pigs who were close friends must have been — PEN PALS

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff

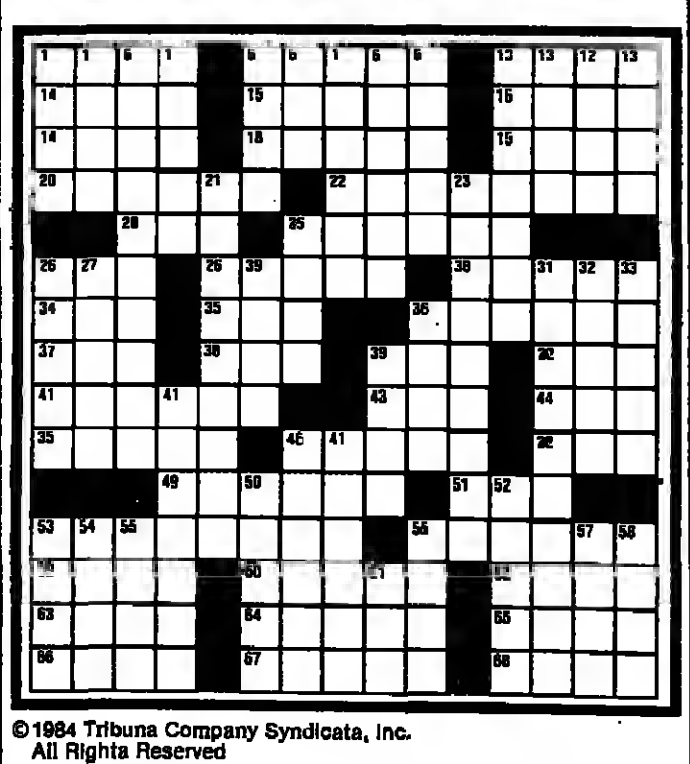


Andy Capp



THE Daily Crossword by Alfin Mici

ACROSS	30 Pakistan money	48 Actor Carlou	13 Sheltered, naively
1 Lake: Sp.	34 — jang	49 Westam stata	21 Primrose plant
5 Lox roll	35 Skillet	51 Stretch out	23 Carrot plant
10 Kay lather	36 Book of observances	53 Cocktail	25 GI
14 Sp. river	37 South Seas island	56 Expunged	26 Tripla Crown winner
15 Tax, shrina	38 Northam native: abbr.	60 Holiday of TV	27 Ward of mouth
16 Leaf are	39 Flying nrg.	62 Tidbit for Pedro	29 Comfort
17 "Things are seldom what they —"	40 Infantry unit: abbr.	63 Idi	31 Silvery-leaved herb
18 Play the shon	41 Fallow	64 Lecherous one	32 Tidal flood
19 Quota	42 Jillion of TV	65 Frankenstein's assistant	33 Singer John
20 Treeless plain	43 Jillion of TV	66 Zest	36 Rajah's consort
22 Formal wear	44 Expert greeting	67 Clivet	39 Yana —
24 Health care	45 Composer Berg	68 Squirming	42 Teller's activity
25 Shouted letters	46 Discolored		
26 Select			
28 Farinaceous			



Democrats attack Reagan's policy speech at Congress

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan's election-year charge that congressional opponents undercut his foreign policy has provoked a predictably sharp retort from Capitol Hill Democrats.

Mr. Reagan made the comments in a speech Friday in which he also stressed his desire to improve relations with Moscow while avoiding one-sided concessions on arms talks, and repeated his pledge to do whatever was needed to keep Gulf oil lanes open.

Referring to the now abandoned U.S. role in Lebanon and his difficulties in winning congressional approval of military aid for El Salvador, the president said:

"Where we have foundered in regional stabilization, it has been because the Congress has failed to provide support... second-guessing undermined our policy."

Reaction from Capitol Hill was fast and furious.

"The president's speech is an outrageous attempt to blame Congress for his own failures in foreign policy," said Senator Edward Kennedy, a leading Democratic critic of Mr. Reagan's

foreign policy.

"The Marines who died in Beirut would be alive today if the president had listened to the critics of his Lebanon policy," the Massachusetts Democrat said.

He added: "I am not going to support a policy in Central America that gives American aid for terrorism and that does nothing about death squads."

A total of 264 U.S. servicemen died while serving in the American force in Lebanon which also included British, French and Italian troops.

Democratic Senator Alan Cranston of California accused Mr. Reagan, who is seeking a second four-year term in this year's elections, of trying to intimidate Congress into backing his policies.

"I do not subscribe to the credo that we must always support the president, right or wrong," Sen. Cranston told reporters. "I think he must be concerned about wea-

knesses in his foreign policy that Democrats in Congress are exposing."

The Democratic speaker of the House of Representatives, Thomas O'Neill, recalled that Mr. Reagan accused him of favouring surrender in Lebanon at the very time last winter when the president himself was deciding to withdraw the Marines.

"He chooses to forget the events of Lebanon and his own past positions," he said. "The American people remember."

Mr. Reagan decided in February to withdraw the Marines from Beirut to ships offshore and in a letter to Congress last week announced he was formally ending the mission.

In his address to a foreign policy conference at Georgetown University in Washington, Mr. Reagan said: "We must restore bipartisan consensus in support of foreign policy... I believe that once we established bipartisan agreement on our course in Lebanon, the subsequent second-guessing about whether to keep our men there severely undermined our policy."



The crew for the space shuttle Challenger depart for the launch pad on Friday at the Kennedy Space Centre (AP wirephoto)

Re-usable satellite to start 10-month stay in space

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (Agencies) — A 10-ton platform carrying 57 scientific experiments for a 10-month voyage is expected to be launched into earth orbit by the space shuttle Challenger Saturday.

The platform, called a Long Duration Exposure Facility (LDEF), is the first of a new generation of spacecraft designed to spend extended periods in orbit and then return to earth with the space shuttle.

Scientists have never previously been able to place experiments in space for such a long time and retrieve them for study.

The LDEF was carried into space by Challenger when it blasted off Friday on an unprecedented "rescue" mission in which two astronauts will try to repair a disabled sun-observing satellite.

Challenger was first due to put the LDEF into orbit where it will remain until retrieved by another shuttle next February.

The LDEF contains a variety of devices to measure the effects of long-term exposure in space on different materials and processes, such as crystal growth and fluid accumulation.

Several are designed to measure the extent and severity of the impact of cosmic rays and microscopic meteors on potential new materials for building spacecraft.

Others will test the stresses of extreme heat and cold a spacecraft encounters as it passes from sun-

light to darkness.

The experiments will also tell scientists more about the composition of near-earth space, which is not the pure vacuum it was once thought to be.

After the LDEF is lifted out of Challenger's cargo hold and put into its own orbit, the bay will become a workshop for next week's satellite repair.

An astronaut will fly out from Challenger with a rocket-powered backpack to rendezvous with the satellite. The shuttle's robot arm will put it onto a work bench so that its faulty parts can be replaced.

The LDEF includes 13 million tomato seeds that will be planted on earth to see if prolonged exposure to weightlessness affects their growth.

On board the Challenger are 3,300 honeybees, safely tucked away in a box. Scientists hope to determine whether they can build honeycombs in weightlessness.

The mission began at 1358 GMT, only 57 one-thousandths of a second late.

"You looked great going up the hill," said mission control.

"The view from here is as spectacular as ever," replied Commander Robert Crippen, the first astronaut to make three shuttle flights.

Com. Crippen was the only veteran on the flight. It was the first time for pilot Dick Scobee and mission specialists George Nelson, James Van Hoften and Terry Hart.

8 Salvadorean rebels die in factional fighting

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Eight leftist guerrillas have been killed in a gunbattle between rival factions of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), according to Salvadoran officials.

They said residents of the hamlet of San Jose in Usulután province, 57 kilometres east of the capital, reported that rebels from the Revolutionary Workers Party (RWP) clashed Friday with People's Revolutionary Army (ERP) forces.

Other patrols were carried out by U.S. and West European fighters and even ship-based helicopters, they added.

The report said the missions were intended to probe Soviet radar defences and scrambling routines and size up the level of resistance which U.S. strategic bombers would meet.

army or civil defence troops were involved and the only other armed groups in the area were the PRTC and the ERP.

Leftist political sources told Reuters that over the past month there had been at least one other clash between two of the five rebel groups in the FMLN.

The guerrillas have presented a public image of unity during the past four years of fighting the U.S.-backed government. But diplomats said there were many differences between the groups.

Last December, the Popular Liberation Forces (PLF) — the most politically hardline of the FMLN — acknowledged that a more militant group had broken away to form the revolutionary Workers Movement (MOR).

Indian premier starts visit to Libya, Tunisia

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Prime Minister Indira Gandhi left Saturday on a shortened visit to Libya and Tunisia after pleading for peace in Punjab state during her absence.

Mrs. Gandhi, who returns on Tuesday, appealed on radio and television Friday night for an end to "these senseless acts" in Punjab where more than 120 people have died this year in Sikh-Hindu clashes.

Security forces in Punjab, neighbouring states, and New Delhi were on high alert for trouble during her absence.

An Indian newspaper Friday reported receiving a threat from Sikh extremists to kill the prime minister's 39-year-old son Rajiv Gandhi next Friday, the day Mrs. Gandhi was originally due to return.

She later dropped Egypt and Algeria from her trip, which was intended to discuss ways of ending the Iran-Iraq war and other international problems.

Mrs. Gandhi said it was ironic that India's first astronaut should soar into space while on the ground a few people proved the streets on murder spree.

Authorities in Punjab Friday extended a curfew on the Sikh holy city of Amritsar until Sunday. They also banned the carrying of weapons, daggers, swords, and even agricultural scythes in the city for the next two months.

Harvesting starts next Friday in Punjab, India's biggest wheat-growing area.

But a 19-month-old Sikh cam-

paign for religious and political concessions has played havoc with the state's economy, once the pride of the nation.

Sikh leader warns

The top Sikh leader warned Saturday that resentment against government policies was growing among Sikhs in Punjab state and that the situation may get out of control.

"There is mounting resentment among Sikhs... I am finding it difficult to hold them back in check," Harmand Singh Longowal said in a letter to Indian Home Affairs Minister Prakash C. Sethi.

Mr. Longowal, president of the Akali Dal Party, said troops of the India's paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) had surrounded Amritsar's historic Golden Temple — seat of the Sikh sect.

The 17th-century shrine "has virtually been sieged and all pilgrims — particularly Sikhs — are being harassed and humiliated," the Sikh militant said.

He called the predominantly Hindu CRPF a "rabidly communal" force and demanded a judicial inquiry into the fatal shooting of several Sikhs during last Tuesday's riot in this Sikh holy city. The riot broke out during the funeral of an assassinated Hindu politician.

"To add insult to injury, the entire control of Amritsar city has been handed over to the CRPF which cannot but be viewed with alarm by the Sikhs," Mr. Longowal said.

Salyut-7 surveys India

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet-Indian crew on board the orbiting space station Salyut-7 Saturday took photographic surveys of various parts of India and began a programme of tests on molten metals.

TASS News Agency said the six cosmonauts, including India's Rakesh Sharma, filmed the Bay of Bengal, Indian desert zones, the Ganges Valley and the Himalayas

using both fixed and hand-held cameras.

The surveys are intended to promote geological and agricultural projects in India.

TASS said the metals tests involved new equipment and were aimed at producing high-quality "metal glass", a resilient material with many modern technological applications, in conditions of zero gravity.

CIA said to have direct role in Nicaragua minelaying

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) played a direct role in laying mines around Nicaraguan ports that damaged at least eight ships over the last two months, the Washington Post reported Saturday.

The Post quoted congressional and administration sources as saying U.S.-financed guerrillas and Latin American CIA employees used CIA-owned speed boats laid the mines.

It said the mines, planted on the sea bed, exploded noisily but were unlikely to sink ships. They were intended to harass and discourage shipping rather than blockade the ports.

The Post quoted officials as saying the mines were having the intended effect, with Nicaraguan coffee and other exports beginning to pile up on piers and imported oil running short.

A French offer to help the Nicaraguans to clear the mines if other nations join mine-sweeping efforts has drawn a cool response from Washington.

State Department spokesman John Hughes said Friday Washington had expressed its concerns diplomatically to the French government.

"We would not favour any nations contributing to Nicaragua's

ability to export revolution," he said.

The Post also reported that the "contras," the U.S.-backed guerrillas fighting Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government, had grown in strength from 15,000 to 18,000.

The American CBS television network reported Friday night that a U.S. government source in Washington said the CIA was actively directing the mining of Nicaraguan ports.

It did not identify the source, but quoted him as saying the CIA has a freighter off Nicaragua's coast and boats are lowered from it to place the mines.

Officially, the U.S. State Department has said it does not know who is responsible for the mining operation.

A note from the French Foreign Ministry on Friday indicated that France did not approve of the disclosure of French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson's letter. It was published in the newspaper Barricada, the voice of the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front.

"It is clear that we are concerned about the obstacles to free navigation that have caused the detour of European cargoes of humanitarian aid for the civilian population of Nicaragua," the note said.

6 French soldiers die in Chad accident

PARIS (R) — Six French paratroopers were killed and nine wounded Saturday in a mine-clearing accident near Oum Chalouba, in central Chad, the French Defence Ministry said.

French television, quoting Defence Ministry sources, said the accident occurred while the paratroopers were attempting to deactivate a shell inside a vehicle.

The Ministry communiqué quoted Defence Minister Charles Hernu as saying the "tragic accident" occurred as soldiers of France's 17th paratroop regiment

were executing tasks similar to the mine-clearing operations carried out by French troops in Lebanon.

It gave no further details.

The losses were the worst for French forces in Chad since Paris sent some 3,000 paratroopers to help President Hissene Habre stop a southward push by Libyan-backed rebel forces last August.

The only previous French casualty occurred when a French

Jaguar was shot down and its pilot killed by an attacking rebel column in January.

Oum Chalouba, an oasis outpost, is situated on the defence line established by French forces across central Chad.

Paris has not authorised French troops to take part in combat operations in Chad, limiting their role to a defensive mission which has effectively stopped the advance of rebels led by Former President Goukoul Oueddei.

China reports shelling Vietnamese troops

PEKING (R) — Chinese heavy guns pounded cross-border positions in response to Vietnamese attacks on April 5 and 6, killing or wounding several Vietnamese soldiers, the New China News Agency said Saturday.

It said many Vietnamese military installations were destroyed in the artillery duel along the border of the Yunnan and Guangxi regions.

China said on Monday that its batteries in Yunnan shelled the Vietnamese in retaliation for attacks on border villagers by Hanoi's troops.

But foreign military experts in Peking said an important Chinese motive appeared to be to divert Vietnam from its dry-season offensive against Kampuchean Resistance Forces fighting the Heng Samrin government, installed by

Vietnam in Phnom Penh in 1979. The Khmer Rouge, largest of the three factions in the anti-Vietnamese Kampuchean coalition, said in Thailand Saturday it had lost a major base at Tanuak Ched in Western Kampuchea to the Vietnamese after suffering heavy casualties.

The agency said Vietnamese guns pounded more than 20 places in China on April 5 and 6, it gave no details of estimated casualties and did not say whether the firing continued Saturday.

China and Vietnam have traded frequent accusations of provocations along the border, tense since China launched what it called a "self-defensive counter-attack" into Vietnam in early 1979 after Hanoi toppled the Khmer Rouge government. Since it announced the start of

shelling on Monday, China has reported several alleged cases, including an account of the gang-rap and murder of a 16-year-old girl by Vietnamese soldiers.

The foreign military experts said publicity for China's recent shelling was comparable to that employed during similar "retaliatory" action in April 1983, when the Kampuchean resistance was also under heavy pressure.

The military experts said the Chinese barrage was rigorously controlled and the confrontation was unlikely to get out of hand.

The Chinese media have given strong backing to Thailand's complaints of Vietnamese incursions into its territory, and said Hanoi's latest actions have ended any prospects of success for a recent Vietnamese diplomatic offensive in South East Asia.

Soviet pilots threaten to destroy spy planes

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet fighter pilots Saturday complained of frequent spy flights by Western planes in the Arctic and warned that if any intruded into Soviet airspace they would be destroyed.

Fliers at an unidentified northern base told the newspaper Trud that NATO jets, reconnaissance planes and even helicopters repeatedly patrolled on the very edge of the Soviet air frontier along the Russian Arctic coast.

"If the enemy should think of violating the border of the USSR, he will immediately be faced with the firepower of the Air Defence Forces," one senior air official told the newspaper.

An air defence general drew a direct parallel with the shooting down of a South Korean airliner in the Soviet Far East last September in which all 269 people on board were killed.

The general said the Jumbo Jet had been sent on a spying mission which had been a "major military-political provocation".

Both the United States and South Korea have strenuously denied Soviet charges that the airliner was on an espionage mission for U.S. intelligence.

Trud quoted Soviet pilots as saying that Western planes were very careful when they approached the Soviet air border as they knew "they would not go

unpunished" if they crossed it. One recalled the destruction of a U.S. U-2 spy plane in 1960 and said any other intruders would suffer the same fate.

The pilots said the United States sent SR-71 high-altitude spy planes and RS-135 reconnaissance craft from bases in Britain to the Soviet Arctic coast.

Other patrols were carried out by U.S. and West European fighters and even ship-based helicopters, they added.

The report said the missions were intended to probe Soviet radar defences and scrambling routines and size up the level of resistance which U.S. strategic bombers would meet.

Filipino army drive against rebels re-opens rift with church

By Joel Palacios
Reuter

BACOLOD, Philippines — A major military operation against Communist guerrillas in the mountains of Negros Island has reopened an old row between the powerful Roman Catholic Church and the paramilitary Philippines Constabulary over allegations of human rights violations.

Church officials on Negros in the central Philippines said troops terrorised, tortured and killed innocent civilians in their frequent sorties into villages they believed sympathetic to the Communist New People's Army (NPA).

The NPA, military wing of the banned Communist Party, has been fighting the government of President Ferdinand Marcos for more than 10 years, and many believe it has become effective in exploiting poverty and alleged abuses by the military.

But Constabulary Commander Colonel Francisco Agudon denied the allegations of military abuses. "Why is it that when soldiers are killed nobody complains?" he

asked a reporter. "When NPA terrorists die in encounters with the military, they are considered to be civilians."

NPA guerrillas killed nine soldiers and militiamen last month in an ambush in a remote village 40 kilometres south of Bacolod, capital of Negros occidental province. It was one of the highest government casualty tolls in encounters with rebels.

Soldiers sent to track down the ambush group killed five alleged guerrillas. But church officials quoted local residents as saying the five men were innocent peasants.

The Social Action Centre of the Bacolod diocese said hundreds of villagers had fled their homes in four mountain areas since the military intensified its campaign against the NPA.

"Experience shows that when military presence intensifies, harassment of civilians also increases and very often we receive complaints of torture and even killings," said an official at the action centre.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said many of the

evacuees stayed in school buildings run by priests. Some complained that soldiers beat them, forcibly searched their homes or compelled them to act as guides.

"This has become a common occurrence because in cases where soldiers are killed in encounters with the NPA, military reprisals are certain," the official said. "We have voluminous files of sworn statements in the bishop's office."

Bacolod Bishop Antonio Forich, an active human rights campaigner, said there has been friction between the church and the military because the people had lost confidence in local officials and turned instead to their parish priest for help.

The conflict between the church and the military came to a head last year when Agudon filed murder charges against three Catholic priests and six church workers for the ambush death of Mayor Pablo Sola of Kabankalan and four other men in March 1982.

The two foreign priests, Australian Brian Gore and Irishman Niall O'Brien, Filipino Priest Vicente Dangan, and their six co-defendants are currently on trial

here. All have pleaded not guilty. Fr. Gore and Fr. O'Brien, members of the Columban Order, had been in the Kapankalan area, 70 kilometres south of Bacolod, for about 15 years.

The local head of the Columbans, Father Michael Martin, described the murder charges as "a frame-up and the work of some sick minds in the military."

At the time of the ambush, Mayor Sola himself faced murder charges following the discovery of bodies buried on his sugar plantation.

At the time of his arrest, Fr. Gore had been charged with illegal possession of explosives and subversive material and faced deportation hearings in Manila. The hearings were suspended pending the murder trial.

The case against the priests drew international attention after prolonged hearings last year on a petition for bail which was refused.

Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden made a special trip to Manila in February to discuss the matter with Philippine officials,

including President Marcos, who ordered the court to speed up proceedings.

Fr. Gore, Dublin-born, Fr. O'Brien and Fr. Dangan spent the pre-trial period under house arrest while their laymen co-defendants were kept in prison.

When they protested and insisted on also being jailed, the priests stayed for a time as "house guests" of Colonel Agudon at his home in the constabulary barracks in Bacolod.

"They walked out on me," Col. Agudon later complained when the priests marched to the prison and demanded to be locked up.

"These three priests, who are supposed to be the epitome of courtesy, did not even ask leave of my wife," he told a reporter.

Col. Agudon, an experienced guerrilla fighter, also complained of "the typical attitude of church leaders."

"They are quick to point out the mistakes of military men but are silent about the misdeeds of suspected terrorists," he said. "I deny that the military have abused the rights of villagers."



Top Soviet test pilot killed

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union's top test pilot, Alexander Fedotov, was killed on Wednesday while carrying out a mission with a new aircraft, the military newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda (red star) said Saturday. Fedotov, 51, was an idol of Soviet schoolboys and established 18 world records for speed and height during a career spanning 25 years. He was showered with state honours, including the title Hero of the Soviet Union. The announcement of his death was in the form of an obituary signed by a group of fellow-pilots. They praised Fedotov for his "cold-blooded courage" and said his sheer nerve had shortened the testing times for new types of warplane. The obituary gave no details of how Fedotov was killed.

Uncle charged with abusing child mother

CHICAGO, Illinois (AP) — An uncle and a male acquaintance of a 10-year-old girl who gave birth this week were charged with taking indecent liberties with her, after preliminary blood tests failed to show if either man was the father, police said. The girl had been unaware of her pregnancy before she gave birth Thursday to a 2.8 kilogramme girl, Felipe Lopez, 51, who is the girl's uncle, and Amado Baez, 35, whose mother baby-sat for the victim, were charged Friday and held for a court appearance Saturday, police Lt. August Locallo said. The baby's age prevented conclusive results from the blood test, and more tests were planned, according to Lt. Locallo.

Credit card business expands in China

PEKING (R) — Improved banking services have made spending easier in China, with increased use of foreign credit cards and travellers cheques, the China Daily reported Saturday. It said a total of \$39 million worth of transactions were made with credit cards through the Bank of China last year. More than 90 per cent were to obtain cash and the rest to make purchases. In addition, the bank cashed or sold \$110 million worth of foreign travellers cheques, the daily added. Credit cards can now be used by tourists and foreign businessmen in selected cities in China, while the Bank of China acts as sales agent for travellers cheques of 19 foreign banks.

Woman gives birth on board Kuwait Airways

KUWAIT (AP) — A Canadian woman gave birth to a baby boy aboard a Kuwait Airways Airbus jetliner in midday Friday, the company announced. The woman was identified as Margerie Fernando, and delivery occurred at 0130 (2230 GMT), three hours after the plane took off from Kuwait on its regular flight to Colombo, Sri Lanka. Abdullah Al Nafessi of Kuwait Airways said. A doctor and a nurse who happened to be aboard the plane during the flight helped the woman, he added without elaborating.

Stars lead tribute to Marvin Gaye

LOS ANGELES (R) — Recording stars Stevie Wonder and Smokey Robinson led a congregation of 400 in a final tribute Thursday night to murdered soul singer Marvin Gaye, who lay in a silver casket wearing a military-style white uniform. Wreaths from Singer Diana Ross and other stars were placed at the foot of the coffin. Gaye, 44, whose jacket was decorated with gold braid and a fur collar, was cremated after the funeral service, in which comedian Dick Gregory told the congregation: "I wish Marvin senior was here so I could tell him how much I love him." Marvin Gaye's 70-year-old father has been charged with murdering him last Sunday and is in custody undergoing psychiatric tests. The father, also named Marvin Gaye, was alleged to have shot his son twice after an argument. Wonder paid a tribute to the singer and sang a song entitled "Light Up the Candle." Gaye's stage band played one of his record hits, "What's Going On," while the mourners, who included his mother, Alberta, and three children, Marvin, Nona and Frankie, filed out of the church.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠KJ865 ♥742 ♦K6 ♣AQ4

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ Pass

What do you bid now?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠Q8753 ♥Q ♣Q8642 ♦103

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

2 ♣ Pass 2 NT Pass

3 NT Pass ?

What do you bid now?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠QJ74 ♥98 ♣Q63 ♦8762

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South

2 ♥ 2